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Flooding, snow cause havoc in North; dozens evacuated

TORRENTIAL rain caused chaos on the roads in the North yesterday and scores of homes were flooded, while snowstorms kept children home from school in the Golan Heights.

The heavy rain flooded over a hundred homes in Fureidis, south of Haifa, as well as houses in Kiryat Haroshet, and caused huge traffic jams on roads leading to and from Haifa.

Mekorot officials said the storms had also raised the level of Lake Kinneret by nearly 30 centimeters in 36 hours, leading to a decision to open the De-

gania sluice gates yesterday afternoon.

Throughout the day, the main coastal highway linking Tel Aviv and Haifa was blocked at various points, causing huge traffic jams.

The worst of the delays was caused by the blocking of the Haifa-Hadera road outside Fureidis because of flooding.

The village was swamped after Nahal Dalya burst its banks and flooded nearly half of it, leaving more than 150 people stranded on the roofs of their

homes.

Eventually a trench was dug through the main road itself to allow some of the flood water to escape, but closing the road completely to traffic.

Since flooding on the coastal road between Caesarea and the Zichron Ya'acov turnoff meant that motorists were unable to use the coastal highway, traffic was diverted along the Wadi Ara and Wadi Milik road throughout most of the day.

The floods also hit Binyamina, which was cut off in the

DAVID RUDGE

morning, with several homes damaged.

Farther north, the Kishon River also burst its banks and flooded several homes in Kiryat Haroshet, and families were evacuated by emergency services workers.

In Fureidis, residents including children were taken to dry land by bulldozers, tractors, rafts, rubber dinghies, surfboards, and navy boats.

Agriculture Minister Ya'acov

Tsur and Prime Minister's Office Director-General Shimon Sheves both initiated inquiries into the cause of the Fureidis flooding.

Later, the Interior Ministry distributed beds, mattresses, and warm clothing to residents of the village.

On the Golan Heights, the problem was snow rather than rain, with many roads blocked and children forced to stay at home. IDF crews worked alongside Public Works Department teams to clear the roads.

According to reports, a pregnant woman was transported from the Druse village of Beit Jann to Safed hospital despite the conditions on Mount Meron in the Galilee.

Elsewhere in the Galilee, however, most roads were open, although police advised people to stay at home wherever possible.

Amnon Reiter, deputy director of Mekorot's northern district, said the Kinneret sluice gates had been opened to the point where they would reduce

the water level by 3 cm. per day.

Nevertheless, the flow of water into the Kinneret following the heavy rain could cause the sluice gates to be opened to their maximum, reducing the level by 8 cm. per day, to insure it does not flood Tiberias and its environs.

Reiter said experts would continue to closely monitor the flow of water into the lake and to regulate the operation of the sluice gates accordingly, to minimize any risk of the lake overflowing its banks.



Sailors use a rubber dinghy yesterday to take a Fureidis family through the flood waters to safety. (Yossi Aloni/Han Aron Tzofa, courtesy of Ma'ariv)

Fureidis begins cleaning up after flood

Meter-high flood water leaves behind a sea of mud

A WOMAN began pushing water out of the living room of her home into the lake around the house in the center of Fureidis yesterday.

It was a well meant, but futile gesture, as the water quickly flowed back, swirling around her feet and lapping against the walls.

She put the mop to one side, resignedly folded her arms, and waited for the water level to drop sufficiently so she could start cleaning up, after nearby Nahal Dalya flooded, swamping almost half the village.

Normally a few meters wide, the rain-swollen stream stretched over hundreds of meters. Inside some homes, the water was more than 1.5 meters high.

Na'im waded through the water to his brother's car, which a few hours earlier had been completely submerged.

"I went to take out bags and

documents, which we had left in the car. It was about all we could get out. The car itself is still stranded there," he said.

Shortly before 4 a.m., Na'im, who lives higher up the village, had gone to his brother's home to help rescue the family and move as much of its belongings as possible to high ground.

"We took the children out and moved them to houses away from the flood. Then we started to take all the important belongings upstairs. Even so, the damage is enormous," he said.

Tawfik Hamed, dressed in a diver's wetsuit, crossed the stretch of brown, dirty water between the flooded houses and the main road for the umpteenth time.

Throughout the morning, Hamed, whose own home was flooded, helped to take dozens of stranded residents to safety.

DAVID RUDGE

Most of them had been caught asleep by the flood and only managed to escape by climbing to upper stories occupied by relatives, or clambering onto their roofs.

Some were carried to safety on tractors and in the shovels of bulldozers, some on rafts and rubber dinghies.

A few youngsters were given medical treatment for exposure, after spending hours on the roofs in the cold and pouring rain.

"I woke up around 2 a.m. to find my house flooded. I started to take belongings upstairs, but a lot of the things were just swept away in the flood," said Hamed.

"I started to take the family upstairs to my parents home and to neighbors and relatives, and then, with the aid of friends from Kibbutz Ma'agan Michael, I helped rescue those who were

stranded."

Hamed, a fisherman, said that during one rescue attempt a navy dinghy overturned and the three sailors inside were dumped in the water. As they were dragged towards the main road, two managed to grab hold of a large drainage pipe. The third was swept along with the flood under the road itself, but emerged safely on the other side.

By last night, as the water receded, many residents were able to return to their homes and begin cleaning up and assessing the damage.

Some cried and hung their heads. Some blamed the authorities for not preventing the disaster, and others the emergency services, and especially the security apparatus, for not doing enough to help.

The end result, however, remained the same - mud everywhere and a hope that what happened would not be repeated.

Nimrodi associate held in bugging case

RAINE MARCUS

A SECURITY officer and close associate of *Ma'ariv* owner and publisher Ofer Nimrodi was arrested as he arrived at Ben-Gurion Airport from London late Tuesday night on suspicion of commissioning wide-scale wiretapping involving about 200 media and public personalities.

David Ronen, a former senior GSS agent employed at Hachsharat Hayishuv, was kept in custody last night and police are to decide this morning whether to bring him for a remand hearing or to release him on bail.

Police said the arrest marks a turning point in the wiretapping investigation, in which wiretappers Rafi Freidman and Ya'acov Tsur have been charged. The two have refused to say who commissioned the wiretapping.

Nimrodi, who owns Hachsharat Hayishuv, was also detained for questioning on Tuesday for several hours and then again yesterday, from the early morning. At 11 p.m. last night, Nimrodi was released and then summoned again for questioning this morning. He was questioned under caution in connection with commissioning the wiretapping and interfering with police investigations.

Other private investigators, involved in related incidents of wiretapping, have provided police with information implicating Nimrodi and Ronen. One investigator, former GSS officer Mordechai Podim, was recently arrested for allegedly tapping the phone of *Ma'ariv* reporter Amnon Abrahamovich, who resigned from the daily after he identified his own voice on the tape found in the possession of Podim and his partner, Yisrael Shahan.

Podim was also at police headquarters in Petah Tikva all day yesterday, and sources said they

Jesse Helms: Israel should keep Golan

MILLE KUTTLER
WASHINGTON

SENATE Foreign Relations Committee chairman Jesse Helms said Tuesday evening that Israel should retain the Golan Heights.

"I don't like the idea of exchanging the Golan Heights for peace," Helms told reporters in the Capitol following a meeting with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

"The Golan Heights must remain under Israel's control, but this is a matter for the Israeli government to decide, and I am only an American senator," Helms said.

Asked what he thinks about Israeli-Syrian negotiations, Helms said: "I am very doubtful. You must still convince me, I, and many others, have doubts." Helms also said both Israel and the US "must be very careful" in dealing with Syrian President Hafez Assad. He said Israel's current peace talks are "tenuous."

Meanwhile, Helms was quoted as advocating cutting US foreign aid programs - including to Israel

- and replacing them with humanitarian aid on a people-to-people basis.

But he said Israel would retain its defense assistance, based on the US's strategic interest in the Middle East.

"There's been a lot of moaning and groaning about money sent to Israel. I myself have been very candid to Jewish leaders that I'd like to cut foreign aid to them," Helms said in an interview published in the recent issue of *The Hill* newspaper, which covers Congress.

"I said I would much prefer a system that would assess how much it would cost the American taxpayers to finance a defense of our interests in that part of the world if there were no Israel."

"It would come out of the defense budget and not out of some illusory State Department budget or AID [Agency for International Development] or whatever."

Peres meets Christopher Shara: Ball in Israel's court

Arafat establishes courts to try security suspects

PALESTINIAN Authority chairman Yasser Arafat has established "state security" courts to try cases considered too urgent to be tried in civilian courts, his spokesman said yesterday.

The decree, signed Tuesday, could toughen procedures against security suspects, those attacking Israelis, and collaborators.

The immediate effect of the decree will be to demonstrate Arafat's goodwill on security matters when he meets Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin today at the Erez checkpoint and asks him to end the 19-day-old closure.

In Cairo, Saeb Erekat, the head of the Palestinian delegation, said he has little to offer Arafat following two days of talks. Erekat said the Israeli delegation had nothing to say concerning the "concept of electing the president separate from the council, or its numbers," issues which had been discussed in previous meetings.

He also opposed Israel's priorities in the talks. Israel wanted to talk about voters and candidates, but, said Erekat, "to have voters and candidates, you need to know what they will vote for and what they will run for."

Foreign Ministry legal adviser Yoel Singer, head of the Israeli team, was more optimistic, but declined to give details on the negotiations.

"We have continuously made progress throughout these two days by discussing a number of issues. We'll continue to do that. We have accomplished a lot, and there's a lot of work there before us," according to Reuter.

Substantial moves toward the Palestinian Authority will be contingent upon whether Arafat's newly-announced determination to crack down on Islamic militants will be effectively translated into policy, Environment Minister Yossi Sarid said last night.

"If these steps continue and this is really policy, not just a gesture toward us, then we will know to do our part in a short period of time," Sarid said last night.

Two officials in the Prime Minister's Office said they doubt

JON IMMANUEL

there will be any easing of the Gaza closure today. One noted that the killing of security guard Yevgeny Gromov in Gaza this week reinforced opposition to the move. It also remains unclear whether there will be an easing of

Caller warns of bomb aboard ship

Jerusalem Post Staff

A PALESTINIAN terror group claims that a cargo ship which left Texas last week for Israel contains a sophisticated magnetic bomb which will explode in two days in the middle of the Atlantic.

In a call to *The Jerusalem Post* last night, a man identifying himself as a member of "The Basics of the Islam" said the bomb is aboard the ship *Liberty Wave* out of Galveston. He said advance notice was being given so people could be evacuated and there would be no injuries.

The US-flag ship left the port a week ago Wednesday, according to the Galveston Port Authority. The ship is owned by the Liberty Maritime Corporation, based in Lake Success, New York.

The group, which the caller said "operates only in Palestine," has never been heard of before.

Arafat was said by those who saw him to have been appalled by the Islamic Jihad double-suicide bombing massacre at Beit Lid.

In an interview with Cairo's *Al-Ahram* quoted by Reuters, Arafat said that attacks "create a pretext for the Israelis not to carry out the agreement ... It's as though Palestinian extremist forces and Israeli extremist forces are singing the same tune."

Before the Beit Lid attack last month, some 300 militants belonging to opposition groups had been arrested following attacks against Israelis, only to be released for lack of evidence and after street protests by supporters.

Only one case, that of Islamic Jihad activist Hani Abed, reached a court, and it was immediately dismissed by the judge. Abed was later killed by a car bomb attributed to Israeli collaborators.

On Tuesday night some 20 more Democratic Front activists and some Islamic Jihad activists were arrested, bringing the total arrested since Gromov's murder on Monday to 80 or 90, most of them from the DFLP and about 15 from Islamic Jihad and Hamas.

Police also closed down an Islamic Jihad-connected press office in Gaza City and arrested Ala Siftawi, originally co-publisher with Abed of the weekly *Ishtiqal*. Siftawi is the son of the late Gaza Fatah leader Assad Siftawi, who was assassinated more than a year ago.

Dr. Hanan Ashrawi, director of the independent Palestinian commission for civil rights, said she could not comment on Arafat's new decree as she had just returned from the US, but she would be studying it very carefully.

Asked if it would undermine the jurisdiction of civil courts, Ashrawi said: "The civil courts have not been doing much anyway."

Israeli security forces, meanwhile, arrested 21 suspected Moslem militants in Bethlehem, Hebron, Nablus, and Ramallah, security sources said.

David Makovsky contributed to this report.

NATO plans links with Israel

LONDON (Reuter) - NATO is preparing to forge new links with Israel and four other North African and Middle Eastern states, because of concern about rising Islamic fundamentalism and weapons proliferation, Secretary-General Willy Claes said yesterday.

Claes said the threat from Islamic fundamentalism is one of the most important challenges facing the West after the end of the Cold War.

"We should not underestimate the risks arising from fundamentalism," he said in an interview with Britain's *Independent*.

"It is our duty to organize, especially with those countries facing this kind of difficulty, a dialogue."

Claes said he hopes decisions would be taken in "the coming days" and added that NATO would invite several states, on a case-by-case basis, to start discussions on security.

The *Independent* said NATO ambassadors were due to agree yesterday on a new dialogue with Egypt, Israel, Morocco, Tunisia,

and Mauritania.

The paper says contacts would initially be limited to regular exchanges between governments and officials, but that the door is being deliberately left open to wider security cooperation.

The paper said NATO is also

planning a new ballistic missile defense system to guard against the threat of attack from the Middle East. It said a top-secret NATO threat assessment last year warned that several states were getting close to having nuclear weapons.

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EU officials push for wrap-up of trade deal

VISITING senior European Union (EU) officials said they want the EU-Israel trade agreement to be concluded after next week's negotiating session of experts, participants in last night's meeting with Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin at the Foreign Ministry said.

The EU delegation, led by France's Foreign Minister Alain Juppe - whose country holds the rotating presidency of the EU - will meet today with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat in Gaza and later with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. They will also make a symbolic trip to Orient House in Jerusalem. While Beilin said Israel is not happy with the move, he said Israel could accept it since it is a "type of courtesy call" and no issues related to the Palestinian Authority will be discussed.

Both Industry and Trade Minister Micha Harish and Agriculture Minister Ya'acov Tsur will meet with the EU leaders today. Both have said the terms of the proposed agreement that the EU wants to conclude immediately are so poor they could not support the agreement once it came up in the cabinet for a vote.

Government ministers agree

DAVID MAKOVSKY

that the proposed agreement does not make a dent in the ballooning \$7.4 billion trade deficit that Israel has with the EU, its largest trading partner.

Israel's trade deficit with the EU has mushroomed by \$1.8 billion in the last year alone, equivalent to the annual US military aid it receives. The EU's trade surplus with Israel is equivalent to its trade surplus with 11 other countries in the Middle East and North Africa combined, Foreign Ministry officials say.

At a press conference last night, Juppe said, "We are used to the idea that the end of negotiations is the most crucial [stage]. We think we have already made very exceptional arrangements for Israel, such as in the area of research and development." Juppe termed Israel's status with the EU "privileged."

Behind closed doors, participants suggested Juppe sometimes emphasized the reverse.

He said Israel should not expect to receive certain benefits reserved for those eastern European countries that would one day join the EU.

When Beilin said Israelis do

not feel that they have received enough from Europe in return for the risks Israel is taking with its Arab neighbors, Juppe dismissed this as "exaggerated," participants said.

In the meeting, Juppe also rejected Israel's complaint that the EU is treating Israel like a "leper" and denying Israel a temporary seat in the "Western European and Others" bloc at the UN. Juppe said Israel must strive to join the UN's Middle East regional bloc.

Israeli officials believe this sort of European attitude is the height of hypocrisy, since the Europeans know very well that Iran or Libya would easily veto Israel joining the bloc.

At the same time, Australia is a member of the Western European bloc.

Being a member of regional bloc is a prerequisite for being named to the UN Security Council, and Israel appears to be the only country of long-standing at the UN never named to the body in its 46-year history.

At the press conference, Juppe emphasized that the European countries have disbursed \$100 million to the Palestinians, most of it for operating expenses.



Spanish Secretary of State Carlos Westendorp (left), French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe (center) and Germany's Secretary of State Hans-Friedrich von Ploetz, representing the European Union, during talks yesterday with Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin in Jerusalem.

Beilin defends European ministers' visit to Orient House

THE law does not ban PLO activity outside of Gaza and Jericho, but bans Palestinian Authority activity within Israel, Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin told the Knesset plenum yesterday.

Beilin was responding to motions to the agenda by MKs Hanan Porat (National Religious Party), Rafael Eitan (Tsimet)

and Naomi Chazan (Meretz) about today's scheduled meeting at Orient House between PLO officials and the delegation of European ministers.

Beilin said he had clarified with the French Foreign Ministry that the visit is a courtesy call and not a working meeting with the PA. He differentiated between the PLO as an organization and the

LIAT COLLINS

PA as an establishment, and said several events involving the PA in Jerusalem had been stopped recently.

Eitan called for the immediate closure of Orient House and the removal of its occupants to either Gaza or Jericho.

Porat accused the government

of not honoring its own agreements by allowing Orient House to function.

Chazan said Jerusalem had been the center of economic, cultural, and other activities by Palestinians from Judea and Samaria since 1948 and closing Orient House would violate Foreign Minister Shimon Peres's promise to the late Norwegian foreign

minister Jorgen Holst that Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem would remain open.

This morning the High Court of Justice is expected to discuss a petition submitted by the Council of Settlements in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza calling for the court to ban the Orient House visit as a violation of the law to implement the autonomy accord.

Shara: No progress until Israel becomes 'serious' about peace

DOUGLAS DAVIS and news agencies

A EUROPEAN Union delegation, headed by French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe, arrived yesterday, after hearing a hard-line assessment of obstacles to peace from Syrian leaders in Damascus.

Juppe, accompanied by senior officials from Germany, Spain, and the European Commission, met Syrian President Hafez Assad and Foreign Minister Farouk Shara, to offer the EU's services in peacemaking.

Shara said there would be no progress in peace talks for years unless Israel shows it is "serious."

Pointedly contradicting Juppe, who had said it is up to Middle East states to move ahead with peace efforts and not stall at obstacles, he told a joint news conference: "The ball is definitely not in the Syrian court."

Shara said Syria would decide whether Walid Muallem, its ambassador in Washington, would resume negotiations with Israeli Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich, depending on his contacts with the US.

"Syria is convinced that should Israel be serious about reaching a just and comprehensive peace and genuine progress on the Syrian track, the matter wouldn't require more than a few months," he declared.

"But if Israel is not serious, this peace will never be achieved."

even if negotiations last for years," Shara warned. "We hope that the other party is serious in the peace process."

Meanwhile, a former top US intelligence official has accused elements in Washington of deliberately playing down Syria's involvement in terrorism for fear of upsetting the peace process.

Vincent Cannistrano, head of CIA counter-terrorism operations until his retirement in 1990, said the State Department's attitude to Damascus derives from its perception of Syria as a "major partner in the peace process."

"Anything that detracts from this role is pushed over to the side," he told *The Jerusalem Post*.

While Syria remains on the US list of countries that sponsor terrorism, he said, "State Department analysts tend not to dwell on the subject of Syrian terrorism, it messes up their agenda."

Cannistrano, who led the US intelligence investigation into the Lockerbie disaster until his retirement, believes the Syrian-backed Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command was deeply implicated in the bombing of the PanAm flight 103.

Both Britain and the US have consistently denied that there is any evidence to link the Lockerbie atrocity to either Syria or the Palestinians.

MKs wary of Islamic militancy in Arab towns

LIAT COLLINS

DEPUTY Education Minister Micha Goldman yesterday said the Islamic Movement is operating in educational and youth facilities in the Israeli Arab sector to fill a vacuum left by the Arab local authorities.

He was addressing the plenum on several motions to the agenda on Islamic Movement activities, following a *Ma'ariv* report on the subject.

MK Yigal Bibi (NRP) called the Moslem activities a "time bomb."

"Suicide killers are the result of years of education in the idea of jihad," he said.

Naomi Blumenthal (Likud) called for a commission of inquiry to examine if state funds are being used to finance activities by Moslem extremists in this sector.

Yoram Lass (Labor) said Bibi should report on the gap between the Jewish and Arab educational and leisure facilities. "Don't turn this into a religious war. Both sides have extremists. There are extremists on the Jewish side, too."

Goldman said the ministry is trying to close the gaps by building more preschools, classrooms, and introducing new teaching methods.

Economics to top agenda of ministers' parley

SECRETARY of State Warren Christopher said yesterday he expects to be returning to the Middle East "before too long."

"I don't have any present [travel] plans, but I'm always willing to go out there if the parties think the timing is right," Christopher, alluding to the Israeli-Syrian negotiations, told journalists prior to meeting with visiting Foreign Minister Shimon Peres at the State Department.

Peres later told Israeli report-

ers here that his 40-minute talk with Christopher did not touch on Syria. Rather, he said, it centered on preparations for Sunday's foreign ministers meeting here.

The talks will center on economic cooperation between Egypt, Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinian Authority, Peres said.

"We will have a lot of discus-

HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON

sions about building a [regional] market economy... and to turn three cities north of the Red Sea into 'free-trade-zones,'" he said, listing Taba, Eilat, and Akaba.

Christopher said the meeting Sunday "will try to give some substance and concreteness" to last Thursday's Cairo summit.

Asked how he might resolve the continued friction between Is-

rael and Egypt over extension of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), Christopher said it is a matter "I'm going to talk to the parties about."

"The NPT and its extension is a major goal of our foreign policy," Christopher stated. "As I said, I think that 1995 is going to be a very important year in the field of non-proliferation. We hope and expect that the treaty will one day be universal, and we'll work to that end."

Trade ministers at Taba meeting declare unequivocal support for ending Arab boycott

JOSE ROSENFELD

THE trade ministers of Egypt, Israel, Jordan, the Palestinian Authority and the US stated unequivocally their support for ending the Arab boycott of Israel in yesterday's Taba Declaration.

A Palestinian effort to include the closure of the territories in the declaration was defeated.

"The declaration breaks new ground, since we are not only talking about free trade and open markets, but also the elimination of the Arab boycott of Israel," US Commerce Secretary Ronald Brown said in Taba yesterday at the conclusion of the meeting.

Industry and Trade Minister Micha Harish noted that the inclusion of the anti-boycott provision in the declaration was accepted without any discussion. "It is important for those who want to do business in the region to see that the boycott is a non-issue," said Harish.

Although not mentioned in the declaration, Palestinian Authority Planning Minister Nabil

Shaath made a point to call for "ending boycotts and closures."

Harish said that there was a consensus in Taba not to include the issue of the closure in the declaration, since everyone recognized that it was a security issue that will be discussed at today's meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

The sides chose to push ahead with economic cooperation, despite the turmoil of terrorist attacks and an economically painful closure of the territories surrounding the occasion.

"[The trade leaders'] meeting demonstrates that they will not be deterred by forces working against peace nor by those who want to keep this region mired in the conflicts of the past," the declaration states.

The ministers agreed to set up a working group that will identify barriers to free and open markets in the region and will propose

solutions to these impediments within six months. The group will also focus on ways to open the region's access to the US market.

They also established a joint group of public and private sector representatives to develop a Middle East information highway to collect and disseminate trade and investment data in the region. According to Industry and Trade Ministry Foreign Trade Administration director Zohar Peri, the US is considering funding a feasibility study for the project.

However, US officials denied that such a decision was made, questioning altogether the need for a feasibility study. Nevertheless, they said the US would actively promote such a project as it is consistent with the policy to create a global information highway. Serious talks on the project are already taking place between Israeli and Jordanian businessmen.

Officials from all delegations noted the openness in all of the Taba meetings to work at developing commercial relations in the region.

Gaza settlers block work on security fence

HERB KEINON

LEADERS of northern Gaza settlements yesterday prevented a tractor from starting work on a nearby electronic fence yesterday, in a forest of likely settlement protests if the government goes ahead with plans to build a fence separating Israelis and Palestinians.

Some 25 leaders of the settlements of Eilat, Dugit, and Nissani blocked the tractor in the morning. The area was declared a closed military zone and a meeting was held in the afternoon between settlement representatives and OC Southern Command Maj.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz. Mofaz told them they must immediately stop blocking work on the fence.

The IDF Spokesman said that bad weather, and not the settler demonstration, was the reason work was halted yesterday. The IDF filed complaints with the police against a number of demonstrators.

Gilber Maman, one of the members of the Nissani settlement, said a demonstration against the fence is scheduled this morning at the Erez junction. The

demonstration is timed to coincide with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's meeting there with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Maman said the fence runs along the Green Line and leaves the three settlements, which together have about 250 families, inside the Palestinian autonomous zone.

"We object on two counts," Maman said. "First of all, the fence is creating facts that are likely to be the basis for the map of a final agreement, and secondly, the fence north of us means that we are exposed from the south. We are in favor of the fence, but we want it to run south of us."

Maman said that one of the IDF officers who met with the group said he would recommend another electronic fence be built south of the three settlements at the same time.

Meanwhile, Deputy Housing Minister Alex Goldfarb (Yi'ud)

sent a letter to Rabin, advocating that the fence be built south of the three settlements.

"The security situation in the north of the Gaza Strip these days is very problematic," Goldfarb wrote. "Only last night, Palestinians broke into the settlement of Eilat Sinai and stole residents' cars. It is clear that not placing the fence south of the settlements is tantamount to abandoning the lives of Israeli citizens, residents of the northern strip."

Jon Immanuel adds: An Arab was arrested by soldiers after he threw stones at the checkpoint near Kfar Darom. This provoked a demonstration of Gazans who were dispersed by soldiers and police.

NIMRODI

(Continued from Page One) were comparing his statements and versions of events with those given by Ronen and others. Police refused to comment on Pdim's status or whether he has reached an agreement with them in return for evidence.

Another Hachsharot Hayishuv security officer, Yossi Ziv, and Ma'ariv's former marketing director Ya'acov Kedmi, were also summoned for questioning yesterday morning and released last night.

Kedmi left Ma'ariv around six months ago after being involved in a dispute with Nimrodi.

Friedman and Tsur are awaiting trial on 40 counts of tapping phones, faxes, and cellular phones.

'Jane's': Israel refitting Cambodian MiGs

ISRAELI technicians are repairing and upgrading Cambodia's grounded fleet of MiG-21 fighters, *Jane's Defense Weekly* says. Israel is also supplying six Aero L-39 trainers and four helicopters, the magazine reported. AP

TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY

deeply mourns the passing of

CAL KOVENS

Doctor Philosophiae Honoris Causa of TAU
founder of the Kovens Health Systems
Management Center
member of the Board of Governors of the University

and extends condolences to the family

With great sorrow we announce the sudden passing of

DR. HYMIE GORDON

The funeral will take place on Friday,
February 10, 1995 (10 Adar 5755)
leaving Sanhedria at 10 a.m. for Har Hamenuhot Cemetery.
Mourning by his sister Seema and Willie Sussman
and her children

Alan Brodie, Hilary Benson and Jonathan Brodie and families

He was dedicated to mankind and all who knew him.

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Knesset Finance Committee okays tax, budget cuts

THE Knesset Finance Committee, in a straight party-line vote, yesterday approved a series of tax and budget cuts meant to offset the effect of the health tax on payrolls.

The plan includes a reduction in the employers' tax (*mas makbil*) from 4.95 percent to 3 percent and an additional tax credit for working women, who are hit hardest by the health tax. It will be paid for with NIS 720 million in budget cuts and NIS 140m. in additional dividends from government companies and the banks.

EVELYN GORDON

Dan Tichon (Likud) said that while his party supports the tax cuts, it objects to the overall plan because the proposed budget cuts are too large.

"The only place they are cutting is [money for] the Ethiopians," he said. "In all the other budgetary categories, they are taking from the reserves."

In addition, he said, the government cannot force state-owned companies to pay higher divi-

dends; dividends must be based on their profitability.

In other news, the committee also approved NIS 231m. in aid to the kibbutzim, meant to finance the building of 1,400 housing units; NIS 160m. of which would be in credit, the rest in grants.

The Likud also sharply criticized this move.

"The kibbutzim on this list are among the richest in the country," Tichon said. "This is becoming a special allocation."

Liba'i, hotel chain deny he received discount

EVELYN GORDON

BOTH Justice Minister David Liba'i and the Moriah hotel chain yesterday denied he received financial benefits from the chain.

Liba'i called a press conference to respond to a report in *Ma'ariv* charging that he and his wife paid less than half-price for a weekend in the most luxurious suite in Eilat's Moriah Plaza.

According to *Ma'ariv*, the suite usually costs NIS 1,650 (\$550) a night. Liba'i paid only NIS 720 (\$240), the price of a regular room.

Liba'i said he went to Eilat on business last May, and decided to add two days of vacation. He showed journalists a copy of the fax sent by his office, asking the hotel to bill the ministry for the first night's stay and Liba'i himself for the remainder of the visit. He also showed a copy of the Visa slip showing he had paid for his part.

When he arrived at the hotel, Liba'i continued, he reminded the clerk of the arrangement, and stressed that he wanted to be charged the full price for his two days. He stressed this, he said, because he was aware there had been problems with Moriah in the past: former police inspector-general Rafi Peled resigned due to accusations he had received improper perks from the chain.

When he went to pay the bill, Liba'i said, he again asked whether he was being charged the full price, and the clerk insisted that he was. She pointed out that the first day, at the ministry's expense, had cost NIS 600, but the two nights billed to him had cost NIS 720 apiece, because they were weekend nights.

Liba'i said he had never checked the price, but seeing that



Justice Minister David Liba'i displays his receipts to the press yesterday. (Brian Hendler)

it was quite hefty, and that he was paying more than the ministry, "I was convinced that I was indeed paying the full price."

He was never told, he added, that he was being upgraded into the luxury suite, and since ministers are routinely housed in a bedroom with an adjacent workroom, he noticed nothing unusual.

"I want to stress unequivocally that there was absolutely no talk of discounts, except for the fact that there shouldn't be any discount," he said. "Therefore, it never occurred to me that there was any kind of a problem."

Moriah issued a press statement yesterday supporting Liba'i's statement and explaining the upgrade.

"Minister Liba'i paid the full price, without any discounts," the statement said. "When the minister arrived at the hotel, it was heavily occupied, and the next day - the weekend before Shavuot - the hotel was full, [but] the suite was free. The hotel manager had to decide who to move into the suite, and he moved Minister Liba'i. There are many precedents for this."

"It is surprising, and sad, that the [*Ma'ariv*] journalist didn't bother to check the details with

the Moriah spokeswoman," it concluded.

Liba'i attacked *Ma'ariv* and reporter Ronel Fisher. This is the third time *Ma'ariv* has published a damaging and false article about him, he said, noting that Fisher once accused him of illegal wiretapping, then apologized for having printed something false.

Another time, the paper reported that the former head of the ministry's civil division, Pina Albeck, had accused him of forging a letter of hers, a charge Albeck denied the same day on television. "It's a fact that there has been nothing like this with any other paper," he said.

Channel 2 news chief escapes firing

HELEN KAYE

CHANNEL 2 News Company head Alon Shalev will not be fired after all, but his powers have been severely curtailed, the channel's board of directors announced late Tuesday.

Shalev will be required to submit a monthly financial report, will not be allowed to exceed his budget without authorization, and a director will have to sign for any expenditure above NIS 20,000. He will also have to reply in writing to the board's criticism of his tenure and submit a work plan for 1995.

At the meeting, Shalev said it was never his intention to conceal anything from the board of directors, six of whom come from the station's three commercial franchisees. The other four are appointed from the Channel 2 Public Council.

Shalev, appointed 14 months ago, was fired last week after disagreements with the board over his management style and because he had exceeded his NIS 10 million budget by NIS 1.2m. Shalev attributed this overrun to the unexpected costs of covering the peace process.

High Court: Disability law discriminatory

EVELYN GORDON

THE Knesset should amend a law that discriminates against disabled female immigrants with respect to disabled male immigrants, the High Court of Justice recommended yesterday.

The recommendation came as the court rejected a petition by Kalbadia Krupenko, a woman who immigrated from the Soviet Union in 1991. Krupenko has a master's degree in Russian language and literature and worked for years in various teaching jobs in the Soviet Union, but was dismissed in 1987 due to health problems. When she came to Israel, she tried to find a job, but the Employment Service said her physical condition made her unable to work. She therefore applied to the National Insurance Institute for a disability allowance.

The NII agreed that she had a 52% disability, which would be enough to grant her the allowance if she had been working. However, the NII said, she had actually been a housewife since coming to Israel, and her disability was not sufficient to incapacitate her in this role. It therefore denied her the payment, and she petitioned the High Court.

Justices Theodor Orr, Gavriel Bach, and Ya'acov Kedmi said that, according to the letter of the law, the NII is right, and Krupenko did meet the definition of a housewife. They therefore rejected the petition.

However, they noted, the result would have been different if Krupenko had been a man. A man, according to the law, cannot be considered a housewife, so he would be covered by the clause that enables immigrants to receive disability allowances for problems incurred before they moved here.

"This result... is mandated by existing law, but it does not seem to accord with the intention to grant immigrants, including women, the right to benefit from disability allowances even if the disability was caused before they immigrated," Orr wrote in the ruling.

"In my opinion, it would be desirable for the legislature to give thought to this problem," he concluded.

First Bernstein competition opened

HELEN KAYE

THE first Leonard Bernstein Jerusalem International Conducting Competition was officially launched yesterday in the capital.

Speaking of the great conductor/composer, Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert said: "Lenny loved Israel and Jerusalem in particular. There is no better way to honor the man who gave so much to music."

The semifinals and finals will be held in Jerusalem from October 2 to 14. An international jury of between 12 and 16 members will choose six finalists from among 16 semifinalists. Winners receive the title of Leonard Bernstein Jerusalem Laureate and \$25,000. The winners - theoretically all six could win - will not be ranked.

The concert repertoire com-

prises 12 works, including two by Bernstein. The young maestros, aged between 24 and 37, will be conducting the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra.

The 16 semifinalists will be chosen from among 100 entries at preliminary auditions locally and in the UK, US, Austria, and Japan. The auditions will be hosted by the orchestras and festivals most closely associated with Bernstein during his lifetime and include the Vienna Philharmonic, the Tanglewood Music Center, and the Pacific Music Festival in Sapporo, Japan, as well as the Israel Philharmonic.

The Israel Postal Authority issued a commemorative stamp and first-day cover yesterday in honor of Bernstein, who died in 1990.

NEWS IN BRIEFS

Murderers of Kiryat Arba man convicted

Hebron Military Court yesterday convicted two residents of murdering Shmuel Erez, a Kiryat Arba resident, while he was walking to pray at Machpelah Cave in March 1993.

The three-judge panel issued the conviction despite the absence of the two, U'ad Salima and Hani Jaber, who could not be brought to court because of the bad weather in the Hebron area.

The court also sentenced a Hamas activist, Walid Abu Nazer, to life imprisonment for murdering a suspected collaborator.

Beersheba club raided for drugs

About 70 policemen raided a popular Beersheba nightclub late Tuesday night, arresting two people who were found with large quantities of Ecstasy, smoking utensils, a gun, and two knives.

Beersheba police decided to launch the raid, during which extensive searches were conducted on all partygoers, because of the recent increase in activities of drug dealers and violence at clubs.

Negev District police commander Yossi Abani said the raid was necessary to ensure that clubgoers are not exposed to drugs and violence.

INTERURBAN LINES

An alighting stop has been added at Migdalai Hatzumim, Ramat Gan, on lines coming to Tel Aviv via Petah Tikva.

LINE 159 RAMLA - PETAH TIKVA
The departure terminal has been moved to Rehov Hashadit, and buses will now go via Giora to Herzl, and then continue on the old route.

Bus departs at 07:00, Sun-Thur.
LINE 164 REHOVOT - PETAH TIKVA
Addition to route: Kiryat Moshe to Petah Tikva, via Rehovot Cen. Bus Stn. Buses run Sun-Thur., 05:15, 06:15, 06:30, 06:42. Not operative Friday and Saturday.

LINE 274 REHOVOT - RAMAT AVIV
Addition to route: Kiryat Moshe to Ramat Aviv, via Rehovot Cen. Bus Stn. Buses run: Sun-Thur., 05:30, 06:00.

LINE 201 REHOVOT - TEL AVIV
New route from Ushiot to Tel Aviv (same route as Line 3). No changes in timetable.

LINE 351 TEL AVIV - BEERSHEBA
LINE 443 JERUSALEM - BEERSHEBA
New alighting and boarding stop at Ein Tzurim, in both directions.

LINE 432 JERUSALEM - RISHON LEZION, VIA RAMLA, REHOVOT, NESS ZIONA
Bus runs at 22:30, Sun-Thur.

LINE 144 BAT YAM - RAMLA
LINE 404 BAT YAM - JERUSALEM
LINE 406 BAT YAM - JERUSALEM
New routes in Bat Yam and Holon, in both directions.

LINE 570 TEL AVIV - GIL AMAL
New alighting and boarding stops, in both directions.

1. Neve Yerak
2. Ramat Hader
3. Yarkona
4. Ganel Am

LINE 508 TEL AVIV - HERZLIYA
Route again operating from Tel Aviv to the Sharon Hotel.

New route: Tel Aviv, Derech Namir, Givat Junc., left at Haseira Interchange. Sd. Hagallim, Bin Nur, Rehov Yan, Sharon Hotel.

Buses run: Sun. 06:00, 06:25, 06:40, 06:55, 07:20, 08:05, 08:25
Mon-Thur.: 06:00, 06:25, 06:40, 06:55, 07:20

LINE 561 TEL AVIV - KFAR SABA
Alternate route to Shikun Kaplan will be extended to Tashluz.

Alternate route up to Shikun Vattlim will end at Cen. Bus Stn. and Line 14 will continue its route.

LINE 575 READING - KFAR SABA
New boarding stop will be added at the Ra'anana Junction in the direction of Kfar Saba.

LINE 600, 602, 604, 605, 618
New boarding stop will be added in Netanya, 36 Sd. Binyamin, in the direction of Tel Aviv.

LINE 626, 678
Alighting stop will be added on Rav Mecher, in the direction of Tel Aviv.

LINE 843 KATZRIN - TEL AVIV
New alighting and boarding stops, in both directions, on the Beit Shean (Roman) bridge.

LINE 991 EILAT - HAIFA
The bus will pick up passengers traveling from Eilat to Dimona.

LINE 995 - BEERSHEBA - HAIFA
The bus will pick up passengers from Hod Hasharon, Ra'anana Junction, Bnei Dror Junction, for Netanya.

SOUTHERN, CENTRAL AND SHARON REGIONS

REHOVOT

LINE 4A REHOVOT - HAPOEL HA'EZRACHI AND RETURN

Route is changed in evening hours (does not go into Ushiot).

LINE 16 KFAR GABIROL - KAPLAN HOSPITAL AND RETURN

Now, no journeys Saturday night.

LINE 25 REHOVOT - RAMOT MEIR (via Na'an)
Buses run: From Rehovot - Sun-Thur. 14:30, 19:45, Fri. 13:15

From Ramot Meir - Sun-Thur. 07:00, 14:55, 20:10.
Fri. 07:00, 13:40

LINE 26 REHOVOT - MAZKERET BATYA
Route is changed in evening hours (goes via Kaplan Hospital).

HOD HASHARON - LINES 1, 2, 3, 4
Lines now start from the Hod Hasharon Country Club.

RISHON LEZION

LINE 020 GORDON, RISHON LEZION - WOLFSON HOSPITAL, HOLON

Route extended for journeys in both directions.

LINE 163 TEL AVIV - KIRYAT GANIM, RISHON LEZION
Route extended.

LINE 168 RISHON LEZION - TEL AVIV
The 06:10 and 06:40 journeys are canceled.

LINE 14
There are additional journeys at 06:00, 06:20 and 06:40.

LINE 430 RISHON LEZION - JERUSALEM (via Road No. 1)
Additional journey at 06:00.

ASHDOD

LINE 2 and LINE 5A
Routes are extended, to go through the new Tel Vav Quarter

SHIVANA (Azor)

LINE 74 SHIVANA (Azor) - THE UNIVERSITY (Ramat Aviv)

Sun-Thur. there will be a 06:50 journey, on the route of Lines 74/96.

NORTHERN REGION

KIRYAT SHMONA

LINE 14 KIRYAT SHMONA - HERMON
Buses run: From Kiryat Shmona, Sun-Thur. 10:30.

From the Hermon, Sun-Thur. 16:30.
Friday, Saturday - no service.

NOTE: Bus run only if site is open. To check, call Egged information.

BEIT SHEAN

LINE 16 BEIT SHEAN - JORDAN RIVER TERMINAL

Buses run: From Beit Shean, Sun-Thur., once an hour, 08:30 - 18:30.

From the Jordan River terminal, Sun-Thur., once an hour, 09:00 - 19:00.

Friday, Saturday - no service.

HAIFA

LINE 11 NEVE SHA'ANAN - SCIENCE INDUSTRIES CENTER (Matam)

Route: Technion, Ziv, Mercz Horev, Freud, Science Industries Center.

Buses run: From Technion, Sun-Thur. 08:30.

From Science Industries Center, Sun-Thur., 18:00.

Friday, Saturday, no service.

LINE 904 TECHNION - TEL AVIV
Journey at 17:15, Sun-Thur. (on lecture days only) from Technion; also on Thur. and Fri., in accordance with timetable.

LINE 940 TECHNION - JERUSALEM
Journey at 15:00 on Thursday, from Technion to Jerusalem (if there are lectures on that day).

LINE 900 TECHNION - TEL AVIV
Buses run from Technion to Tel Aviv, on Thursday at 13:00, 15:00, 17:15.

JERUSALEM REGION

LINES 154, 155
to Ma'aleh Adumim - change of line numbers:

Line 154 becomes Line 174

Line 155 becomes Line 175

from Givat Ram to Hadassah Ein Kerem, and back. The line runs Sun-Thur., on university study days only. Timetable changes have been made.

LINE 5 - LINES 186, 187
The terminal has been moved from Platform 8 to Platform 1.

LINE 407 MA'ALEH ADUMIM - TEL AVIV (becomes Line 471)
The 06:30 journey will now leave at 06:15, and enter Givat Ze'ev.

LINE 471 JERUSALEM - TEL AVIV
The 06:15 journey from Jerusalem to Tel Aviv is canceled.

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Turks: Air clash won't increase tension with Greece

ANKARA (Reuters) - Turkey downplayed the prospect of diplomatic fallout after a Turkish air force F-16 fighter crashed into the Aegean Sea near the Greek island of Rhodes yesterday.

"I don't believe the incident to be of a magnitude to increase tension in Greece-Turkey relations," Foreign Minister Murat Karayalcin told reporters.

"We have not yet been able to speak to the pilot. (We) will make an evaluation after speaking to him," he said.

A Turkish military spokesman said the plane crashed due to a technical fault during a training flight.

"The crash occurred 15 miles (24 km) southwest of Rhodes, while the plane was in international airspace," Colonel Dogu Silahcioglu said. "The pilot ejected to safety and has been rescued. He is in good health."

The incident reflected traditionally-sour relations between the two NATO allies, frequently wrangling over territorial rights

in the Aegean sea.

Karambelas identified the pilot as Lieutenant Kildirim Mustafa and said he was "in shock but good shape". He had been taken to hospital on Rhodes, near the Turkish coast and close to the scene of the incident, Karambelas said.

He said the Turkish fighter was one of four F-16s which violated Greek airspace yesterday.

Two Greek Mirage F-1s scrambled from Iraklion Air Base in Crete to intercept them and force

them back to Turkey, he said. Earlier a Coast Guard official on Rhodes had said four Greek Mirages were involved.

Karambelas said "no shots were fired" and the Turkish plane crashed on its way back towards Turkey.

Greece often accuses Turkey of violating its airspace in the eastern Aegean. Two Greek F-5s crashed on low-flight manoeuvres in the region last Wednesday, killing three crewmen.

Tense relations between the

two neighbors, which nearly went to war in March 1987 over mineral rights in the Aegean Sea, have deteriorated in recent months.

The Greek government sent a draft bill to parliament in January which would clear the way for extending the country's territorial waters to 12 miles from shore.

Turkey has said such an extension would virtually turn the Aegean into a "Greek lake" and warned Athens the move would be a cause for war.

The neighbors have also been

quarrelling over the treatment of a Moslem minority in Greece. Ankara's efforts to forge a customs union with the European Union and a long-running dispute over Cyprus, which Ankara invaded and partly occupied in 1974.

The EU's latest effort to forge a customs union with Turkey could suffer after an apparent breakthrough earlier this week.

EU foreign ministers on Monday agreed in principle on going ahead with a customs union,

which Greece has been blocking in return for setting a date to start talks with Cyprus to join the EU.

Several Greek newspapers and radio stations have sharply criticized the deal in principle on the customs union and the Greek government expressed its reservations Tuesday.

Spokesman Evangelos Venizelos told reporters the government would study the deal closely and that it was possible that after "this examination it will not agree with this formula."

Chechnya's neighbors fear war will spread

DAVE CARPENTER
NAZHAN, Russia

CHECHNYA'S increasingly nervous neighbors, already reeling from a flood of refugees, are now worried that the war itself will spill over into their regions.

Russian military commanders frequently accuse Ingushetia and Dagestan of harboring Chechen rebels, and Russian forces passing through Ingushetia fired on a border village last weekend, allegedly in self-defense.

In recent days, Russian helicopters have made slow, sweeping circles around the Ingush capital, Nazran, in what some fear are scouting missions for future clashes.

Sergei Stepashin, head of Russia's Federal Counterintelligence Service, did nothing to ease those tensions when asked about the possibility of war in the region just west of Chechnya.

"It's a difficult situation in Ingushetia," he said in an interview in the current edition of the weekly Argumenty i Fakty. "It's a very serious problem."

Tens of thousands of Chechens have already fled to Ingushetia and are now crammed into emergency housing or squeezed into private homes. The Ingush share a common language, culture and the Moslem faith with the Chechens, and many sympathize with the plight of their neighbors.

Ingush authorities have repeatedly denied helping Chechen rebels, but have criticized Russia for bombarding civilians.

An adviser to Ingush President Ruslan Aushev said the region can only wait helplessly to see what Russia's military commanders decide to do next.

"It would be easier for them to justify this big loss of people and equipment in Chechnya if the scope of the war is larger than one republic," said Azamat

Nalgiev. "They've already prepared for this justification by telling the world that many Chechen fighters are in Ingushetia, resisting the Russians, which is not true."

The true toll of dead and wounded in Chechnya may never be known, but estimates now suggest thousands of casualties in just two months of fighting.

The vast majority are civilians killed in relentless Russian artillery bombardments, in often indiscriminate missile strikes and bombings, or in the crossfire between government troops and Chechen guerrillas.

A Russian lawmaker said Tuesday that a group led by the nation's human rights commissioner has compiled a list of 25,000 civilians killed so far in Grozny, the devastated Chechen capital.

The Interfax news agency also said military sources had now raised their casualty estimates among the Russian forces in Chechnya to 1,200 dead, with an additional 150 missing and 3,400 wounded.

Lawmaker Yuli Rybakov said the human rights group had compiled its list of names and addresses through refugees who have fled the fighting. His comments were reported by Interfax and the ITAR-Tass news agencies.

Russian government officials have rejected similar casualty estimates.

In Grozny, Russian authorities turned over the bodies of 44 Chechen fighters and civilians killed in recent fighting. The bodies were released to Chechen rebels in exchange for three Russian officers being held prisoner, the ITAR-Tass news agency reported yesterday. Thirty-six more Chechen bodies were to be released later yesterday.

Howling dog clue to time Nicole died

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - The jury in the O.J. Simpson double murder trial heard testimony from a neighbor of his ex-wife that he heard a dog start howling at about 10.15 p.m. the night she was killed.

The prosecution has previously suggested that the dog's plaintive barks were an indication of the time of her death.

Pablo Fenjves, whose home is about 18 metres from Nicole Brown Simpson's townhouse said, "It was fairly persistent...a plaintive wail. It sounded like a very unhappy animal."

In testimony during Simpson's preliminary hearing in July, wit-

nesses told of finding Nicole's Akita, a Husky-type dog, wandering in the neighborhood with its feet and legs spattered in blood.

Fenjves, a screenwriter, told prosecutor Marcia Clark he remembered the time because the dog's barking came as he was watching the ten o'clock news on television and generally he only watched the first 20 minutes.

Defense attorney Johnnie Cochran confronted Fenjves with a transcript of a police interview in which he had put the time between 10.15 p.m. and 10.30 p.m. but the witness insisted the barking started between 10.15 p.m. and 10.20 p.m.

FBI trailed terrorists for four years

NEW YORK (AP) - The FBI was on the trail of three of the World Trade Center bombers for nearly four years before the deadly explosion in the office towers, the government said Tuesday.

In evidence presented at the trial of Sheikh Omar Abdel-Rahman and 10 others accused of waging urban terrorism, the FBI also said it had bugged the Moslem cleric's phone a week before the blast.

The testimony - a day after a defendant switched sides - raised questions about why the FBI was unable to prevent the Feb. 26, 1993 bombing, which killed six people and injured 1,000.



Firemen clear the bodies of 130 sheep after they were killed in a traffic accident in Gravesend, England yesterday. A woman and a four-year-old boy were critically injured in the crash. (Reuters)

Apartheid police may finger who gave orders

JOHANNESBURG (AP) - Police implicated in apartheid-era political crimes would tell who gave them orders if their former leaders refuse to accept responsibility, the retiring police commissioner says.

The warning yesterday by Gen. Johan van der Merwe to a parliament committee in Cape Town amounted to a time bomb regarding a proposed amnesty law for political crimes committed before the nation's first all-race election last April.

President Nelson Mandela's African National Congress won the vote and heads its first government. It wants to set up a Truth Commission that would receive evidence of apartheid crimes. Anyone giving full details of the crime and their role would be eligible for amnesty, with details published in the Government Gazette.

The white-led National Party that implemented and dismantled apartheid opposes public disclosure of Truth Commission findings. It says people who testified would become targets of revenge and the process would reopen old

wounds instead of healing the nation.

But van der Merwe's statements to the parliament committee holding hearings on the Truth Commission legislation showed a more compelling reason for the former apartheid rulers to fear public disclosure.

He said police retained documents showing who ordered them to commit crimes against anti-apartheid activists in the name of defending the government and country.

Without naming names, van der Merwe made clear the documents implicated senior members of former National Party governments.

Some party officials, including former president F.W. de Klerk and former foreign affairs minister P.W. Botha, now serve in Mandela's government.

Van der Merwe said former government leaders must claim full "collective" responsibility for crimes committed by security forces under their command. Otherwise, he said, policemen would protect themselves by disclosing who gave them orders.

Ecuador pressured to sign cease-fire

LIMA (AP) - Latin American and US diplomats have increased pressure on Ecuador to accept a cease-fire in its nearly 2-week-old bloody border war with Peru.

Peru already has said it would sign the cease-fire, worked out last weekend in Brazil, but it has pressed for an 8-km demilitarized zone. Ecuador would accept a zone just a kilometer wide.

Yesterday, Ecuador proposed amendments to the cease-fire agreement, but did not say what they were. Peru's foreign minister, Efraim Goldenberg, rejected the counter-proposal calling it "completely impertinent."

Peru's vice minister for foreign affairs, Eduardo Ponce Vivanco, said the changes centered on demilitarization.

At the same time Peruvian forces continued to pound away at Ecuadorian posts in a disputed tract of jungle in the Andes, and Peru said it lost another helicopter in the battle zone.

More than 30 soldiers have been killed since fighting broke out in earnest on Jan. 26.

Earlier Tuesday, Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella, whose government has been trying to broker peace, urged Ecuadorian President Sixto Duran-Ballen to accept the cease-fire offer.

Duran-Ballen this week visited Argentina, as well as Brazil and Chile. Those countries, along with the United States, are trying to end the fighting.

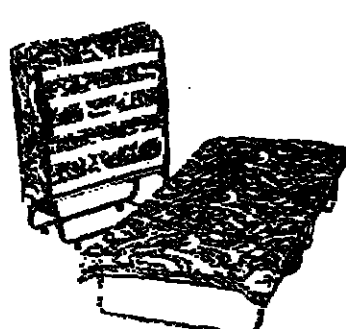
The president of Ecuador's Congress, Heinz Moeller, was to meet in Washington yesterday with Undersecretary of State Peter Tarnoff. He was expected to urge Moeller to agree to the proposal worked out by mediators in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The proposal calls for a mechanism to pursue a permanent settlement to the conflict, which goes back to a 1941 war won by Peru.

Both sides claim an unmarked 77-km section of border in the Cordillera del Condor mountains, near the headwaters of the Cenepa River. The region is about 1,000 km north of Lima and 350 km southeast of Quito.

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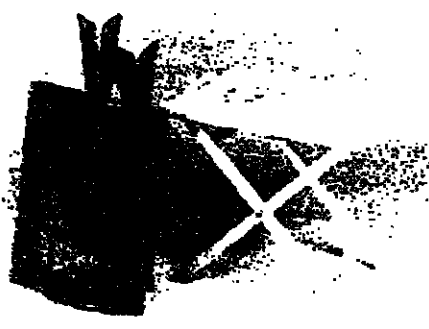
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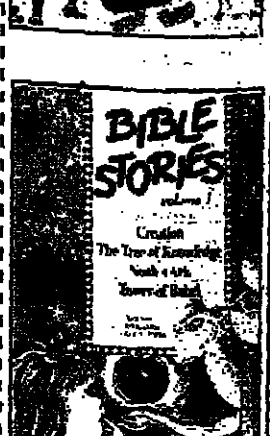
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How green is your schnitzel

OFF THE SHELF
MARTHA MEISELS



For the woman who wants the ultimate pair of jeans, Levi's now has a "made to order" system by computer.

Computerized matching for the right fit

GLAD RAGS
ROSE-MARIE TURK

WOULD you pay an extra \$10 to let a computer choose your next pair of Levi's? So far, an estimated 900 women have said yes to the option, introduced in the US last fall on a limited basis.

And why not? The customer would get what one analyst called "individually tailored goods and services," while the manufacturer would avoid costly overproduction. "You're not mass-producing a product and hoping it sells. You've already got a sale," a Levi Strauss & Co. executive said.

Everyone, seemingly, would win. But after it made headlines last year as a revolutionary way to customize mass merchandise, some limitations in the concept have surfaced.

After two months, the program's working title was revised "to 'personal fit,' rather than 'custom fit,'" which, Barbara Kates acknowledged, "is misleading."

Kates is director of visual merchandising for the Original Levi's Stores, scattered throughout the northeastern US, where the program is offered.

Indeed, early reports suggested that a woman who visited a selected Original Levi's Store, had her measurements fed into a computer and paid the \$10 fee could have a pair of jeans custom-made for her particular body.

But the "personal fit" jeans are limited to the approximately 400

samples contained in each store. All are size variations on Levi's tapered-leg, zipper-fly 512 jeans for juniors and 521 for women.

Depending on the part of the country in which they are sold, the finished jeans could cost up to \$65.

A salesperson measures the customer's waist, hips, inseam and rise — or the distance from crotch to the waistline. She punches the information into a computer, which suggests a sample for the customer to try, and eventually which software pattern is sent electronically to the Levi's factory in Mountain City, Tennessee.

If the first sample doesn't fit perfectly, the customer can indicate where she wants improvement. The salesperson then either feeds the new data into the computer or simply pulls another sample off the rack.

Even then a woman might not find her Personal Pair (the trademark name). "We hope to fit a lot of women, but you can't fit everyone," Kates said.

Levi's is targeting two consumer groups. The first contains "a small percentage of women who feel they never received a pair of jeans that fit," said company spokesman Sean Fitzgerald.

"They may be thin, or they may have a smaller waist and bigger thighs."

The second group is what we call 'the denim connoisseur,' those women who have to have the ultimate pair of jeans." (Los Angeles Times)

It's not easy being green; you might wind up as a vegetarian schnitzel.

Soglowek Teva's latest frozen product is crispy brown on the outside, soft and green inside, but it isn't made from spinach or broccoli. It's a Greenie Schnitzel.

Greenies are bright green water sprouts grown on artificial ponds at landlocked Kibbutz Tzora in the Jerusalem foothills. Resembling tiny three- and four-leafed clovers, they are a type of duckweed, and Greenies is their commercial name. Fresh Greenies are sold in supermarkets' vegetable sections, mainly for use in salads and as a garnish.

The fact that Soglowek's Greenie schnitzels are tasty has more to do with the spicing than with the sprouts themselves, which are almost neutral in flavor. The other ingredients are soy protein, potato, vegetable fat, egg white, spices, salt and fried onion. The coating is made of bread crumbs, starch, sugar, and spices.

For a vegetable substance, Greenies are unusually rich in protein, including the essential amino acids generally found only in animal protein. The water sprouts are low in calories.

The Greenie Schnitzel, however, has the same percentage of protein as most other vegetarian schnitzels. It also has about the same number of calories.

In 100 grams, there are 210 calories, 12 grams of protein, 18 gr. of carbohydrates, and 10 gr. of fat, of which 1.5 gr. is saturated fat. There is no cholesterol.

Each Greenie Schnitzel weighs 83 grams. The product is "kosher parve" with the endorsement of the Eda Haredit of Jerusalem, as well as the seal of the Nahariya Rabbinate.

A 500-gram package of six schnitzels sells for around NIS 14.50 (though the Super-Sol chain has an introductory offer of NIS 11.90). They can be oven-heated, pan-fried or deep-fried.

Labeling is Hebrew-only, including the name "Schnitzel Greenies," which is hard to decipher in Hebrew letters. A minimum of English would help. For those dependent on picture-reading, look for a green-and-yellow label picturing a schnitzel on a plate, and clover-like greens in the background.

BRIGHT green is the color of a plastic foam liner for the bottom of vegetable compartments in a refrigerator. The Wenko animal mold mat from Germany is meant to prevent spoilage of fruits and vegetables. It is newly available at the Super-Pharm chain.

The large-holed, sponge-like matting allows for the circulation of air, in order to keep produce fresh longer. The soft mat also prevents bruising of fruits and vegetables.

Measuring 47 cm by 30 cm, the green sheet can be cut to fit the size of a single bin. The mat is washable, but the manufacturer suggests it be replaced every three to four months.

It retails for NIS 15 at all branches of Super-Pharm, and the labeling and instructions are multilingual.

CHEF Hayam (Sea Chef) has come out recently with new frozen schnitzels combining fish and vegetables.

The two types are Hake with a Vegetable Medley ("Dag Zehavon im Leket Yerakot") and Hake with Corn ("im Tiras").

The manufacturer promises a minimum of 30 percent fish in the contents. The high vegetable content and rather peppery spic-



Clockwise from above: Planero's baking pans allow one to bake cakes in the shape of dinosaurs, clowns, bunnies or puppies; babies can now drink mineral water straight from the bottle; Soglowek Teva introduces Greenie schnitzels, made from bright green water sprouts that are high in protein and low in calories; for dessert Vered Hagalil offers "Shuki Vephapitzponim," a crunchy milk chocolate bar with rice crisps; Tamar She'an gets a head start on Purim with a date-and-poppyseed spread.

ing mask the "fishy" taste usually associated with fish-based schnitzels.

The official price is NIS 18.95 for a 750-gram package of nine portions. The Super-Sol and Hypercol chains are having a two-for-the-price-of-one offer this month. Labeling and cooking directions are bilingual.

IF YOU can bake a cake, you can make it in the shape of a heart or a broken heart, a clown, dog, panda, rabbit, elephant, dinosaur and a few other animals — thanks to a new series of anodized aluminum baking pans from Planero of Kibbutz Kfar Etzion.

The pans are particularly large and deep, and retail between NIS 23 and NIS 25. They can also be used to mold gelatin desserts into fancy shapes.

THE EARLY bird gets the poppy seed.

Tamar She'an, a date-products firm in the Beit She'an Valley, has gotten a jump on Purim (March 16-17) with the release of a new pastry filling which combines dates with poppy seeds.

Called "Tarmelit Pereg," it joins the series of Tarmelit date-based spreads which the company recommends for filling hamantaschen and other pastries. A 450-gram plastic tub of date/poppy seed spread sells for NIS 4.68.

Tarmelit also has an all-date spread, which I recommend, and several other varieties, including one with chocolate.

The one line of English on the packaging doesn't mention poppy seed but simply calls it date spread.

VERED HAGALIL has a crunchy milk chocolate bar with rice crisps in it — said to be its own unique idea. In Hebrew, it's called "Shuki Vephapitzponim,"

and it has a brown-and-yellow label. A 75-gram bar retails for NIS 2.90.

RELATIVELY low-fat dairy products are tasting creamier these days, thanks to technology.

My favorite of the new crop is Meshek Tzuriel's Creme Yogurt. This sheep's milk cream cheese has only 5 percent fat, and 97 calories per 100 grams. In English, it's marked "Sheep Cream Cheese."

It is soft and creamy, but with an edge of sharpness, as in traditional yogurt. It is meant for spreading, but could be used for dips. A 250-gram rectangular box sells for NIS 6.14 at the chain stores.

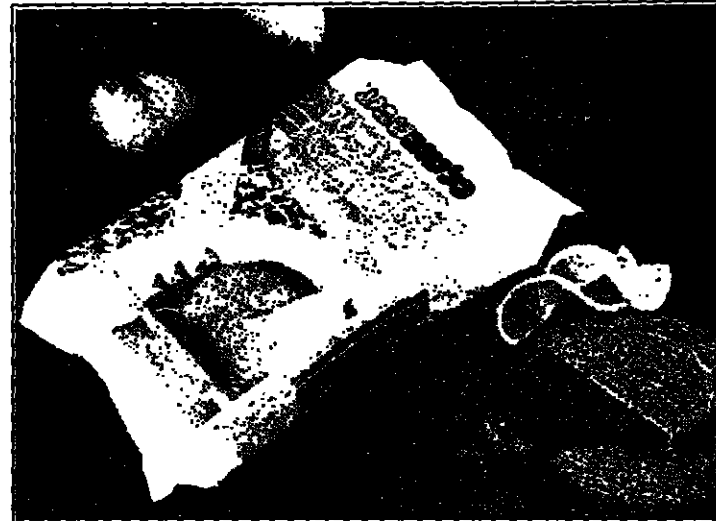
Strauss's "Symphonia 10" is a new cream cheese with only 9 percent fat, compared to about 35 percent fat in Kraft's Philadelphia Cream Cheese and in regular Strauss Symphony Cream Cheese. While not as thick as the regular, the Symphonia Low Fat Cream Cheese (as it is labeled in English) tastes remarkably rich, has a very creamy consistency and only 130 calories per 100 grams.

Strauss says a slice of bread with this new 9 percent fat cream cheese will contain only about 90 calories. A 200-gram box sells for NIS 4.84.

Perhaps more remarkable is Strauss's Ski-Kal, a creamy white cheese of the type the French call "fromage frais." It has only 1/4 percent fat, yet is quite tasty, eaten either on its own or on bread. There are only 58 calories per 100 grams.

It comes in a round plastic tub weighing 250 grams, at NIS 3.13. Strauss's Ski also comes in 5 percent fat and 9 percent fat versions.

By popular demand, Tnuva's relatively new Sheli dairy product



now comes in a 3 percent fat version as well as the original 4.5 percent. Both taste much richer than they really are.

The name Sheli comes from the first letters of the words "shamenet" (sour cream), "leben" (cultured low-fat milk), and "yogurt." A 200-ml. cup costs NIS 1.25.

BABIES can drink Mei Eden mineral water straight from the bottle, thanks to a new accessory which allows a baby bottle nipple to screw onto a Mei Eden bottle.

Called "Meta'em Pitma" ("nipple compatible"), the plastic attachment sells for NIS 9.99 in pharmacies, chain stores and baby-goods shops.



BARGAIN BASEMENT

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NURSES' SHOES — US, size 9 1/2, NIS 150; new black suede shoes, size 8 1/2, NIS 100; elegant leather shoes, size 9, worn once, NIS 50. 02-665977.
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European intimidation

A TRIPARTITE European delegation headed by France's Foreign Minister Alain Juppe is in Israel to bully the government. It wants Israel to lift the closure on the territories, which the European governments view not as a measure against terrorism but as collective punishment. It wants Israel to stop building Jewish homes in Judea and Samaria, and particularly in the Jerusalem area, because it sees this building activity, rather than Palestinian terrorism, as the main obstacle to peace. And it wants a "larger role" for Europe in the peace process - a euphemism for the acceleration of Israeli withdrawal to the 1949 armistice lines and the relinquishment of the eastern part of Jerusalem.

It would be easier to listen to the Europeans had they come to the region with clean hands. But Israelis cannot forget that it was mostly European weaponry, financing, technical assistance, and diplomatic support that made it possible for Saddam Hussein to invade Kuwait and bomb Israel with Scuds. It is the Europeans who - with Russia, North Korea, and China - are turning Iran into a nuclear threat and helping Libya, Egypt, and Syria become major chemical-warfare powers. And it is their recent lifting of the arms embargo against Syria that enabled Syrian dictator Hafez Assad to ignore American warnings against sponsoring Hizbullah, Hamas, and Islamic Jihad.

To add insult to these grave injuries, the delegation is defying a request by its host not to visit Orient House in Jerusalem, which the Palestinian Authority has turned into its foreign ministry. Only countries with an odious colonialist tradition can treat a sovereign state as if it were a banana republic whose official requests can be safely and contemptuously disregarded. Clearly, no equivalent conduct by Israel would have been tolerated. An Israeli foreign minister who as much as contemplated meeting with the Basque leadership in Madrid, for example, would be unceremoniously thrown out of Spain.

Unfortunately, the government's own spinelessness must share the blame for this insult to Israeli sovereignty. None of the European governments would have allowed an equivalent of the Orient House to be established in their capitals. That it continues to be there, despite the flagrant violation of the Oslo agreement its very presence constitutes, is not the fault of the visiting officials.

Nor can the Europeans be blamed for treating

Israeli warnings and official requests with less than complete respect. Not long ago Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said that if Orient House became a PLO foreign ministry, the Oslo agreement would be canceled. Such hollow threats do not enhance Israel's credibility.

The government has had three choices in this instance. It could have called off the visit unless the delegation canceled its meeting at Orient House. Or it could have allowed the visit but refused to see the Europeans if they insisted on including Orient House in their itinerary. Or it could have done precisely what the new legislation enables it to do: close down Orient House for violating the agreement not to serve as an official government agency of the Palestinian Authority.

Instead, it ignobly chose to ignore the European rejection of its appeal and behave as if it never happened. Its decision is to play down the whole affair, in return for a European promise to keep the visit "low profile." The price of this compromise is further erosion of Israel's position in Jerusalem.

There are members of the government, led by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who believe this kind of placation will beget not only European friendship but economic benefits. Typical of this approach is the complaint by Industry and Trade Minister Micha Harish and Agricultural Minister Ya'acov Tsour about Europe's poor terms for the proposed EU-Israel free trade agreement. Feeling that the terms are so bad that they cannot support them, both ministers plaintively charge that the Europeans are not displaying the kind of goodwill Israel had a right to expect after "taking risks for peace with its Arab neighbors."

This expectation of reward for "good behavior" betrays the type of naivete of which national tragedies are made. Israel is an extraordinary customer of European goods. The EU, Israel's largest trading partner, enjoys a \$7.4 billion trade surplus with Israel, far surpassing anything it has with the other 11 non-European Mediterranean nations.

With Far Eastern trade now a viable alternative, Israel should be courted, not treated with contempt. If the Europeans feel that they can dictate terms, it is only because they sense that the government radiates weakness and inconsistency. Such feelings can only be magnified by the license they have received to promote the division of Jerusalem at Orient House.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

VISIT TO ORIENT HOUSE

Sir, - The newspapers report that the prime minister of Great Britain, Mr. John Major, is due to visit Israel next week and will also visit the head of the PLO, Mr. Arafat, in Gaza. All well and good, but why is it reported that Mr. Major will probably also visit Orient House in East Jerusalem?

If the public can read about the intended visit in the local press, I presume that our Ministry of Foreign Affairs knows about it and they will tell Mr. Major, in no uncertain tones, that we will not allow any official visit of the British prime minister to include Orient House. Enough of explaining after a visit that "we did not know," or "were unaware," etc. If we, the public, can read about it beforehand, then you in the ministry surely know about it. So, let's read about a definite cancellation of any visit to the Orient House by Mr. Major.

MYRA WEINBRAND

Haifa.

NO MORE WAR

Sir, - We cannot and we will not get used to nightmares. And the war-crazy terrorists among the Palestinians have succeeded in giving us nightmares every time the dream of peace comes nearer to fulfillment. We are confident that Israel will know how to react to the latest crimes of the terrorists, and our thoughts and hopes go to the Israeli people, who constantly are paying such a terribly high price for peace.

We are aware of the fact that the militant Palestinians do not know of any borders, and that Buenos Aires and London are also within the frontiers of their war. In the week where the entire civilized world says "never again" to what happened in Auschwitz, Hamas threatens "ethnic cleansing" in a war against the Jewish people. They shall not succeed, and we shall never give up the dreams of so many generations. We shall continue to be ready for fight, whenever that is necessary, and at the same time we shall continue to pray that no more shall nation lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war.

BENT MELCHIOR,
President, B'nai B'rith
District Continental Europe
Copenhagen.

THANK YOU, TEDDY

Sir, - Thanks to Teddy, for once again expressing so simply and so perfectly what I have been trying to articulate to myself these last few weeks. I have been troubled by the weekly demonstrations on Bar-Ilan Street, but I couldn't say why.

Then I read Teddy's column of January 13, and it all became clear. Yes, I too, am against the closure of Bar-Ilan because once again a minority is turning my religion, and it is my religion, just as it is theirs, into something ugly, something that repels rather than attracts. Maybe I don't know much about God. But do "they" know Him any better? Do they believe that God would want someone injured or even killed (and we all know that a stone thrown at a moving vehicle can kill), because of a disagreement on the appropriate way to spend Shabbat? Is throwing stones and garbage the appropriate way? Maybe for some, Shabbat is best spent visiting the family even if that family is a car ride away. Or for others, relaxing and preparing for the coming week by spending time in the outdoors of our holy land may be the way.

Now I know why I am against what is happening on Bar-Ilan every Shabbat. It is another incidence of intolerance, of a small group feeling that their way is the only way, and of attempting to force their way on those who disagree with them, even at the risk of inflicting injury or maybe death.

So thank you, Teddy, for helping to clarify my feelings, and for reminding us that our city has lost a statesman - a rare commodity these days - and "gained" a politician, of which there is a considerable surplus.

We miss you, Teddy.

REGINA MAZOR

Jerusalem.

JAMES JOYCE

Sir, - Gustavo Perednik is not 100 percent right when writing ("Case of benign neglect," January 15) that James Joyce is conspicuously absent from Jewish encyclopedias. On page 340 of the *Lexicon des Judentums* (Library of Congress catalog card number 66-17133), he is mentioned with *Ulysses* and Leopold Bloom.

MARTIN J. POLAK
Tel Aviv.

FUNDS FOR PA

Sir, - Lately Shimon Peres has been canvassing the world seeking massive financial donations to the Palestinian Authority. According to Peres, the main obstacle to true peace in the Gaza Strip is the never-ending cycle of poverty which encourages violence and frustration among its population. If we (and donor countries) could only help solve their dire financial needs, we would be able to provide the Palestinians with hope for the future and thus hope for the peace process.

In his quest for funds, I suggest that Shimon Peres look no further than Casablanca. In the recently convened 16-nation Jerusalem Committee, where Arafat was deemed the final authority regarding holy places in Jerusalem, the attending delegates represented by such rich nations as Saudi Arabia, Oman and others pledged to raise a target \$100 million for the reconstruction and restoration of Jerusalem "with a view to safeguarding its Islamic identity."

I suggest that this self-proclaimed Emergency Committee for Jerusalem be approached by Peres on one of his sojourns abroad contributing funds to the poverty-stricken residents of Gaza. On the other hand, maybe it is in the self-serving interest of this committee to ensure that the residents of Gaza remain the way they are while they fight over the rights to Jerusalem and Shimon Peres is kept busy soliciting funds all over the globe.

RA'ANANA JUDY LEV

UNWANTED EMISSARY

Sir, - Yehiel Leket's call for a revolution in attracting new blood into the organized Jewish world (*The Jerusalem Post*, January 6) recalls an article of his many years ago in the *Post*. At that time, Leket proposed that emissaries should be found by search teams rather than by wasteful public tenders.

Some time later, the *Post* reported that Jews in Los Angeles were disgruntled by the unilateral appointment of an unwanted emissary to their community - a man they believed unqualified for a job they believed unnecessary. That man was Yehiel Leket's brother.

Maybe the head of the Jewish Agency should be sought by public tender. MARK L. LEVINSON
Herzliya.



RECIPROCAL VISITS

Security gone crazy

URI DAN DENNIS EISENBERG

ON the day that Israeli security guard Yevgeny Gromov was shot dead and his colleague wounded by terrorists in the Gaza Strip, plans were going ahead for 100 members of the Palestinian Security Service to be taught how to handle weapons by Israelis who learned their expertise in the IDF. The plans call for coaching at a Caesarea shooting range, using advanced Israeli Jericho pistols. The PLO men will also learn techniques perfected by crack Israeli anti-terrorist professionals.

Last month eight PLO men completed a course which taught them how to kill efficiently. Asked how he felt about training Arabs who might use their new skills against Israelis, one of the Israelis said: "If we don't train them, the Germans will." Officially, he added, the men were to be used to protect Palestinian banks.

"If you believe that, you'll believe anything," as one-time French premier Edouard Daladier might have said. Daladier was a delegate at the notorious September 1938 Munich meeting with Hitler, Chamberlain and Mussolini, which promised "peace in our time."

Daladier wasn't keen to return to France. He knew that appeasing Hitler was as futile as buying off a rapacious blackmailer. He believed that angry crowds in Paris would attack him for the craven stand taken in Munich.

But, to his astonishment, he was wildly cheered, as was Chamberlain in London. "They are all idiots," Daladier whispered to an aide pointing to the crowds. He used a much cruder word.

The sacrifice for this peace was Czechoslovakia, which Hitler promised would be his last territorial demand.

Nearly 60 years later, another four national leaders gathered in Egypt. Here, Arafat also made a solemn promise. He agreed to "denounce terror." The reward would be all of Judea and Samaria. The human sacrifice for an Arafat-style "peace," it was understood, would be yet more Jews killed by Moslems hell-bent on jihad.

The first victim, just three days later, was Gromov.

It mattered not a whit to his grieving family and friends what uniform his murderer wore - Hamas, Islamic Jihad, or the PLO in disguise. All have the same objective. And Gromov? He became another statistic to sweep under the rug of the Oslo accords.

It is claimed that Israel's De-

Israeli crack shots

are busy teaching

Arafat's people

how to kill

the 1950s, when David Ben-Gurion, ruthlessly exploiting his grip on the security service chiefs, ordered the bugging of a building occupied by his political arch-rival Menachem Begin in Tel Aviv's King George Street.

One Friday night, in an operation which outlasted Watergate, GSS agents drilled a hole and planted an electronic device in the wall close to Begin's desk, behind a portrait of Ze'ev Jabotinsky. Every subsequent conversation of Begin's reached Ben-Gurion's ears within hours.

When Begin became prime minister, he was told about the bug for the first time by one of the writers of this column.

"There is a dusty file at security headquarters archives marked 'The Begin Bug File,' he was told. 'Why don't you have it brought to you?'"

Initially, Begin was shocked. But then he shrugged and said: "The time for such childish games is over. Today we are a grown-up country."

Are we?

The new man shortly to take over the role of GSS chief might consider unraveling the disastrous politicization of security matters that has occurred during the past two years.

While "G," the recently retired GSS chief, was on a study course in the US last year, there was a great hue and cry about an "underground terrorist movement" based in Kiryat Arba.

The chief scapegoat was Lt. Oren Edri. Day after day he was

smear in blazing headlines and on TV. He was humiliated, and ill-treated by interrogators, who told him: "You and the settlers are the scum of the earth."

Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres exploited the orchestrated hysteria by issuing verbal onslaughts against all Jews living in Judea and Samaria.

The whole shameful business collapsed when Edri was found not guilty of all charges, barring technicalities. The blame for this defeat for the GSS was put on G's deputy, who in reality wanted far more severe action taken against PLO gangs. He demanded the expulsion of 30 Hamas members from the village where Nahson Wachman had been murdered, only to be told: "It's no longer fashionable to say things like that out loud."

When "G" returned from America, he and his deputy apparently sensed the way the wind was blowing against them. The two men decided to retire. Both professionals to the core, they are admired by their highly professional field agents.

The departure of "G" and his deputy was celebrated by all the terrorist organizations in the Greater Jerusalem area. The two GSS chiefs had limited terrorist activity and fought the terrorists tenaciously.

Will the new GSS chief learn the "Edri lesson" - to focus on defending the lives of Israelis rather than striving to please his political masters? Or will he buckle under pressure and bow to the siren voices of the government?

As the country braces for a growing tide of terror attacks from Gaza, Judea and Samaria, spearheaded by suicide bombers, the effectiveness and integrity of its security branches will surely depend on the professionalism of the GSS.

This is the only sure, positive answer to the mumbled charade of the four muffled, bluffing mummies posing for cameras in Cairo last week.

Is this description exaggerated? Three days after his solemn promise to denounce terrorism, Arafat remained mute about the slaying of Yevgeny Gromov.

Did Rabin react with one of his notorious outbursts of anger? Not at all. He implied that Israelis would just have to accept terrorism as a fact of life.

The writers are authors of *The Mossad: Secrets of the Israeli Secret Service and other books on the Middle East*.

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



For sale: 16 brand-new cars, slightly bent. Amazingly, no one was hurt when a raging bulldozer moseyed through this automobile dealer's parking lot in West Seneca, New York. The runaway 35-ton monster traveled a kilometer, narrowly missing a busy video-rental store and two sets of high-tension wires, before destroying this display of Subarus and Oldsmobiles.

Shared destiny

ROBERT S. RIFKIND

A sound Israel-Diaspora relationship cannot be based on emotion alone. Thought, care, judgment and wise choices between action and restraint, zeal and forbearance are called for. These guidelines are my contribution to the serious debate that should be held:

1. As far as can reasonably be foreseen, there will continue to be a Diaspora. The Jewish communities in the Diaspora and Israel shouldn't merely coexist, but should exist in as fruitful and productive a relationship as possible.
2. The indispensable link between the Jews of Israel and the Jews of the Diaspora is Judaism. It is the shared responsibility of both communities to nurture all forms and expressions of Judaism in the life of the Jewish people. The transmission of Jewish civil-

ization to succeeding generations is a collective obligation.

3. Israel, its land, people, culture, language, and institutions are a major resource of world Jewry, providing Jews everywhere with a vital sense of peoplehood and self-confidence.

4. The Diaspora, in all its diversity and with all its material, cultural, and political capacities, is a major resource for Israel, by reason of which Israel is both sustained by and exerts an influence over a realm vastly greater than its own narrow borders.

5. Israel and the Diaspora must not fail to recognize the fact that they are mutually dependent. We avow a shared destiny. The Law of Return is, both symbolically and practically, a significant manifestation of that relationship.

6. As a matter both of Jewish tradition and pragmatic necessity, Jews in Israel and the Diaspora must, at a minimum, treat each other not merely with civility, but with the respect and concern that members of a family owe each other. The honor of each must be dear to the other. It is the duty of leadership to chastise those who fail to observe this principle.

7. Israel and the Diaspora must maintain effective channels of communication, cooperation, and succor. In order to care for each other they must know each other. This is a two-way street. Not only must Jews in the Diaspora be more fully acquainted with all aspects of life in Israel, but, conversely, it is incumbent upon Israelis to understand the character and variety of Jewish life in the Diaspora.

8. When Israel engages in the rescue and absorption of immigrants, and when it maintains cultural, educational, and recreational facilities, it does so on behalf of all Jews and is entitled to the material and moral support of world Jewry.

9. Diaspora Jews are plainly entitled to express their opinions and offer their advice on anything about which they are informed. Unanimity can no more be expected of them than it can of Israelis. Diaspora Jews must, however, recognize that statements critical of Israel (or indeed of fellow Jews anywhere) are likely to be given disproportionate weight when uttered by Jews. They should speak, therefore, with prudent circumspection.

In particular, they should give reasonable deference to positions taken by Israel through its regular democratic processes, especially on matters of security and defense.

10. Each community needs to choose its own leadership. Interference by one community in the politics of another is fraught with danger for both, promotes resentment, and undermines legitimacy. However well intentioned, the attempt by Diaspora Jews to participate in selecting Israel's political leadership leads to divisiveness in the Diaspora and erodes democratic accountability in Israel. Diaspora Jews should refrain from such interference, and Israelis should not invite it.

Likewise, Israelis should resist the temptation to play a role in selecting the Diaspora leaders, or to interfere in the Diaspora's domestic politics.

The writer has just been elected national president of the American Jewish Committee. (AP)

سكنا من الارض

Removing tattoo may show others why not to get one

DEAR RUTHIE
RUTHIE BLUM



Dear Ruthie,
On a visit to Eilat, I drank a little too much and got a tattoo. When I went back to America, my family was very upset. My mother told me I would not be buried in a Jewish cemetery. I regret having done it. Now a friend wants to get a tattoo. How can I convince her that she will regret it?

Permanently Marked
Kibbutz Hazorea

Dear PM,

Convey your message from a different angle. Though, halachically, tattoos are forbidden (see Leviticus 19:28), a Jerusalem Hava Kadisha source told me that tattoos are ignored by them during burial.

Furthermore, tattoos can be removed by laser or plastic surgery. Your friend might be better convinced if she were to accompany you through the process of removal. Finding the doctor, schlepping there, having your skin burned, and, finally, paying a nice, juicy fee, will have more of an effect than anything you or her mother have said so far.

Dear Ruthie,

I am 75 years young. When I was a girl in Europe, I loved to dance. Now, I have found a group of senior citizens who get together to learn new dance steps at a club in my area. My husband is against it. He is worried I'll hurt myself. What do you say?

Dancing in Circles
Netanya

Dear Dancing,

If your doctor sees no medical reason to prevent you from pivoting, I think you should go for it. Maybe you could even persuade your husband to try it. It could be that his objections have to do with unease about your "gallivanting" around without him, as much as about your health. If he doesn't want to join you, however, he could come and watch. Sometimes observing from the sidelines whets one's appetite for participation.

Dear Ruthie,

I just had a baby. All of my friends and relatives bombarded me with boxes of chocolate. I know they meant well, but I spent three days in hospital stuffing my face.

This is the last thing needed by a woman who wants to lose the weight she put on during pregnancy. Could you please mention this to your readers?

Bon-Bon Bursting
Jerusalem

Dear Bursting,

I'd be happy to spread the word. Not only are chocolates fattening, but they're expensive. If you want to pamper a new mother, soaps, lotions, and after-bath powders are just as thoughtful, and usually cost less.

Letters should be addressed to: "Dear Ruthie," POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. (Ruthie regrets not being able to guarantee publication of every letter, but will answer every letter received.)

Danish job-sharing a dream come true — almost

LIFE-STYLE
LARS FOYEN

FIANCY taking a year's paid leave from work to study, be with your children or just lie on the couch and read novels?

The dream has become reality in Denmark, appropriately the homeland of fairytale writer Hans Christian Andersen. At the end of 1994, almost 80,000 Danes were enjoying a new leave-from-work program designed to promote job-sharing and cut unemployment.

Prime Minister Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, a pragmatic Social Democrat who introduced the scheme, often talks of a future society where people can tailor their lives, mixing work, education and parental duties according to personal needs.

The one-year-old program — giving the right to 12 months of educational, parental or sabbatical leave — seems to make sense from an economic, human and political point of view.

In theory, each worker taking leave from the program should be replaced by an unemployed person. The state pays the leave-taker between 70 percent and 100 percent of the Danish maximum unemployment benefit allowance of about \$350 a week before taxes. The substitute gets real wages and valuable experience.

The swap should not cost the state any money, the leave-takers are happy and unemployment figures fall because those on leave are not considered jobless.

TOO GOOD to be true? Yes, unfortunately, say critics. The center-right opposition and employers say the program is already causing bottlenecks in the labor market, which create wage pressure and threaten to fuel inflation. It could also end up costing the state money, they say.

"Educational leave is good because it raises the skills of the workforce, which should secure competitiveness and create jobs in the long run," said Klaus Rasmussen, an economist with the Confederation of Danish Industries.

"But parental leave and sabbaticals should be scrapped at once, because they only reduce the workforce and have negative side effects," he said.

One problem is that many leave-takers, particularly in the private sector, are not



Theoretically, under the Danes' leave-from-work scheme the unemployed will have jobs and the employed will have time to roll around in the grass and get paid for it. (Israel Talby)

being replaced. Flemming Frandsen, a Labor Market Board spokesman, said employers appeared to have replaced little more than half of the leave-takers. Economists estimate this means extra costs for the state of 21 million crowns (\$3.5 million) for every 1,000 people on leave.

The scheme has — not surprisingly — proved highly popular among the workforce. The government expected about 20,000 leave-takers in 1994. The Labor Market Board approved 80,798 applications for parental leave, mainly from women in the public sector. Some 47,000 people opted for education leave and about 13,000 for sabbaticals.

The schemes are expected to be at least as popular this year. Meanwhile, imaginative unions have used the leave programs to prevent redundancies and increase employment. Bus drivers, office workers, rubbish collectors and others have introduced rotations under which, for example, 30 workers share 24 jobs.

Each worker gets every fourth week off — in addition to their five or six weeks of paid holiday a year — with most of the income loss covered by the sabbatical leave program.

Faced with the demand for leave-taking and increasingly aware of the economic risks it could carry, Rasmussen is cutting compensation for parental and sabbatical

leave to 70 percent of the maximum unemployment allowance, from 80 percent.

A further cut to 60 percent is planned in 1997, although the allowance for educational leave remains 100 percent.

Social scientists say the programs, which indirectly admit the dream of full employment will never be realized, could have a profound effect on the Danish work ethic and mentality.

"The long-term effect is that it promotes the idea that we Danes shall not work always, but should be set on being away from the labor market during parts of our life," said senior philosophy lecturer Ole Thyssen. (Reuters)

Get the edge on unstuck edges

FIX IT YOURSELF
TAL KATZ

ONE common eyesore many of us learn to live with is peeling formica. Edges of cabinets, kitchen counters and shelves begin to come loose, leaving a streamer of dangling decoration and revealing the unattractive chipboard surface underneath. But don't worry. They can be repaired painlessly.

Materials required: scissors; one or two sheets of 0-grain sandpaper (nyar z'chuchit); small tube of Israeli brand contact glue (devak maga) (you could get a can, but it is better to buy small quantities, as this glue dries out quickly); a box of matches or toothpicks; and petroleum ether (benzin lavan) which can be purchased at any pharmacy.

Directions

• With scissors, cut a strip (approximately 5 centimeters wide) out of one sheet of sandpaper. Repeat when necessary.

• With patience and steady hands, carefully sand both the underside of the loose formica, and the surface from which it has come unstuck, taking care not to break the formica strip. Check after each few rubs to see if the old glue is removed, and both surfaces are smooth. Try to sand as close up to the point of separation as possible.

• With puckered lips and good lungs, blow away the "dust" created after sanding, to ensure smooth surface for gluing.

• Apply glue in a thin, even layer over both the formica strip and the surface to which it is to be glued. (Apply directly from tube; if in a can, apply with a wooden match or toothpick.)

• Keep the two glue-covered surfaces apart for 10 to 15 minutes. The best way to do stand matches or toothpicks — with the ends touching the base surface and the back of the formica — in intervals along the strip, depending on how much of the strip needs to be repaired.

• Remove the matches or toothpicks, one by one, beginning with the one closest to the point of separation. As each one is removed, press and smooth with the fleshy base of your thumb.

• To remove excess glue which may appear at the seams — or any glue accidentally smudged during

application — wait about two hours after completing adhesion. Then take a cotton ball or a piece of clean cloth — preferably white cotton — and immerse it in white benzene.

After wringing out excess benzene (the cotton or rag should not be dripping), rub over the desired area. At this point, you don't have to be gentle.

If a section of your formica strip breaks — either during the repair, or otherwise — and the broken piece is still in your possession, it can be attached, like a puzzle piece, according to the above instructions. In this case, however, you must take extra caution when lining up the top and bottom edges of the strip with the hard surface.

Once contact has been made between the two gluey surfaces, it is extremely difficult to unstuck the pieces if you need to readjust them. But don't panic if your hands weren't steady enough. A small overlap can be sanded or filed (with a metal file).

You can camouflage the crack after patching a broken piece. If the formica is white, apply correction fluid (Tipp-Ex) to the crack. If it is another color, apply permanent marker of that color.

You may need to strip the whole edge of loose or damaged formica. Carefully slide the blade of a utility knife (sakin yapanir) between the formica and hard

surface. A medium-size, straight-edge screwdriver can also perform this task, if the formica is partially loosened.

Replace the strip with new formica, available at carpentry supply stores and lumber yards, which cut materials to size. This is because cutting formica down to precise measurements is very difficult without the use of high-precision power tools and a large work space, two things you're unlikely to have.

Wood veneer (furnir): To repair loose wood veneer, follow the same instructions as above, but omit the first three steps. Due to the brittle texture of veneer, sanding is liable to cause breakage.

Plastic: If the strip is a kind of plastic frequently used to cover inexpensive cabinets, then it is easier to strip off the whole damaged edge as described above, and to apply self-adhesive plastic strips. These come in various widths, colors and imitation wood patterns, and are inexpensive.

Though a minor repair, its benefits are major. Aside from the sense of accomplishment gained by rolling up your sleeves and doing it yourself, it is amazing how a fine finish makes a difference in the general look of a home. Now you're ready to tackle the next neglected nuisance.

If you have a question or can suggest simple solutions to annoying problems, write to: Fix It Yourself, POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem.

A Maori tragedy comes to the world stage

BOOKS

MARK TREVELYAN

It was outrage. Alan Duff says, that first made him put pen to paper.

Four years and two searing novels later, Duff's strident, challenging voice is still ringing across New Zealand's ethnic divide. And film audiences in 35 countries will soon have a chance to judge him for themselves.

Son of a white father and Maori mother, Duff made an explosive literary debut in 1990 with *Once Were Warriors*, the tragedy of an urban Maori family that destroys itself through alcohol and violence.

The novel, whose film version has won acclaim at major festivals, expressed the writer's anger at the wasted lives and unrealized potential of too many Maoris.

"There is an outrage at this mad, mindless drinking, which by definition means victims, and an astonishment that people can't see what they're doing, not just to themselves but to those victims," Duff says.

He bridges the suggestion that a story with such a specific New Zealand setting may not "travel."

"Its appeal has always been universal, and I knew it and I predicted it," Duff said in an interview at his home in the affluent middle-class town of Havelock North.

"That could have been set in

the middle of Glasgow and a mother worrying about, 'What the hell's happening to my kids? They're into gangs. My husband's coming home from the pub soon, he's going to smash me up.'

"That could be the middle of New York, it could represent black America, Hispanic America, white America in Kentucky. It's a universal story and it is a total and utter nonsense to call it a Maori story."

Duff knows all too well the broken homes, the petty criminals and the sordid, gang-infested bars he writes about.

Domestic violence scarred his childhood, his parents' marriage broke up and, while a teenager, he veered off the rails and into juvenile detention centers.

"I don't really want to talk about that, to be honest. I get sick of it.... I grew up a bit late, that was basically what it was. I'd had some very traumatic childhood experiences and it had an effect on me, and it took me a while to throw them off."

At 44, the angry young man has mellowed somewhat, but the passion and intensity are still there.

Duff doesn't smile much. His broad, open face furrows into a frown as he savages critics and directs his withering scorn at pettiness and small-mindedness in whatever form.

Duff, whose writing style vividly captures the Maori vernacular, has no time for Maoris who "bleat" about historical injustices suffered at the hands of white Europeans.

Maoris, who make up 13 percent of New Zealand's population of 3.5 million, are "kidding themselves" if they think the return of disputed land will solve their problems.

"If they [the whites] handed us over all of New Zealand right now, today, that would not reduce our unemployment by a single one. They keep forgetting that it requires an attitudinal change in Maori," Duff says.

Tribalism is by definition forever dividing, tribalism is mindless.... We will continually be divided as long as we're thinking along ethnic lines. We live in the one country. We should be thinking as New Zealanders."

Now, after exploring racial themes in both his novels, in newspaper columns, on televi-

sion and in a provocative book, *Maori: The Crisis and the Challenge*, Duff has had enough.

"Quite frankly, I'm sick of it.... The country's sick of the Maori issues, and so am I," says the man whom some Maoris have branded an apologist for whites. He aims to finish a new book, which is "absolutely not a Maori novel," by January, and has just finished the script for a film, *Mates*, about a controversial euthanasia case.

He makes no secret of his satisfaction at seeing his name on the best-seller lists, and his craving for wider fame.

"I'm not some minor petty little being that fills scrapbooks with my achievements.... In the same breath, I've always wanted international recognition, however it came. And now I've got it, or I'm getting it."

Like the best American writers — he scorns the "pompous, class-conscious, provincial" English — Duff says his ultimate goal is to smash through literary barriers and break new ground.

"I'm only interested in pushing the boundaries, not in being yet another person who steps out onto the cricket wicket and shows the classic strokes and all that sort of thing.... There must be another way to play this game." (Reuters)

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1995

Government names new El Al board

HAIM SHAPIRO

FINANCE Minister Avraham Shohat and Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar yesterday named the new board of directors for El Al. The chairman will be former Arkia director-general Yossi Rosen.

Rosen, who also served as managing director of the Coop supermarket chain, is currently serving as the chairman of Ma-shab, a subsidiary of Koor and Clal.

He is also the chairman of the Nesher cement factory and Granit-Hacamel.

El Al director-general Rafi Harlev will remain at his post. The appointments mark the end of a 13-year receivership for the national airline.

The board will include former IAF commander Amos Lapidot, Hotel Association chairman Michael Federman, Profina Invest-

ments director Tamar Gottlieb and Ran Kroll, the Finance Ministry's director of budgets.

Other members will be Tourism Ministry director-general Eli Gonen; Environmental Ministry director-general Yisrael Peleg; Eli Ronen, head of the Transport Ministry's economics department; and Yehudit Harish, former legal adviser to El Al.

The board will also include Ilan Plato, the Prime Minister's adviser on economics; Shimon Kosnetzky, who will represent the workers; and an unnamed Jewish Agency representative.

Following the end of receivership, the company's shares are to be sold on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange and then internationally.

The goal is a dilution of stock so the government holds less than 50 percent. The stock issue is to



Yossi Rosen: New El Al chairman of the board of directors. (Gadi Dagon)

garner capital to renew the airline's equipment.

Harlev welcomed Rosen's appointment and said the staff would be happy to cooperate with the new board to promote the interests of El Al and the privatization.

El-Op workers strike after firm closes Ness Ziona plant

RACHEL NEIMAN

A LABOR dispute turned ugly at El-Op yesterday as management shut down the company's Ness Ziona plant. But some 400 angry workers circumscribed security guards hired by management by forcing open a side door.

The dispute, approved one month ago by the Histadrut, was based on an 11-month-old conflict over collective agreement terms and wages.

The El-Op workers council met yesterday evening with Histadrut professional council head MK Amir Peretz and representatives of the Ness Ziona Histadrut. El-Op's workers were promised full Histadrut backing in terms of food, mattresses and all things necessary for staging an ongoing sit-down strike.

El-Op workers object to the signing of 300 new employees to personal contracts, rather than an

agreed upon 100. Management said the real problem was the worker's inability to recognize a defense company's competitive needs in the '90s.

"El-Op has been around for 58 years. We are the last high tech company with this type of collective agreement," vice president for human resources Yithak Sheps said. He said the current agreement guarantees automatic salary upgrades "to an absurd degree," and forbids firing without approval from the worker's committee. "We need more managerial flexibility," he said.

El-Op workers said the situation became increasingly serious some two weeks ago after management refused to continue to pay employer's tax (*mas makbil*) to Kupat Holim, saying it was

now only obligated to cover health tax payments.

Sanctions carried out for the past two weeks by El-Op workers included not working overtime and not typing work orders. When workers received January wages which included a 15% deduction, for what management said was their not working enough hours, there was an outburst in which offices and equipment were destroyed.

Both groups claimed the other side was unwilling to negotiate terms of the wage contract.

The Histadrut is now checking whether El-Op management's shutting down the plant to prevent the strike was legal.

Fruchts said that between 10 and 11 yesterday morning, management told the electric compa-

ny water was seeping into the factory, and requested the plant's electric supply be cut off "to keep workers out, but we are now are operating generators."

Fruchts said workers had punched time cards but were unable to work, and that security guards still roamed the plant. Sheps said security guards were necessary protection for a defense plant.

The Histadrut does not justify violent behavior, said Shai Shani, assistant to Amir Peretz.

Yesterday afternoon, however, El-Op workers were threatening to take more dramatic action using an experimental military tank parked in the El-Op yards, or a possible protest outside the Dan Hotel in Tel Aviv. The Dan hotel chain is owned by the Federman group, which also owns El-Op.

German hotel chain enters local market

HAIM SHAPIRO

WITH international hotel and resort companies flocking to Israel, the addition of one more chain might not seem like much.

But Robinson Club is a subsidiary of German tour organizers TUI, the largest tourism enterprise in Europe and possible the world.

Robinson Club head Kurt Niclaus was here this week for talks with Amiel Tours, which represents the 25-resort chain in Israel. While here, he also looked over sites for a possible Robinson Club in Israel, concentrating particularly on Nahsholim, the kibbutz resort at Hof Dor.

Amiel Tours director Chuzi Amiel says the Robinson Club in Turkey was the most expensive package sold to Israelis last year. Despite this, there were 1,000 takers, he adds.

"We don't lower our prices," Niclaus says flatly. Niclaus started out as a sailing instructor with Club Med and then became its head in Germany before moving over to head Robinson worldwide.

He says the range of resorts offered by Robinson Club is similar to that of Club Med, although Robinson concentrates on the German-speaking market, with most of the guests from Germany, Austria and Switzerland.

He says the chain is primarily a management company, which chooses locations with potential for a specific market and then invites investors to come in and develop the property according to Robinson's plans.

Niclaus says he sees no difficulty in finding investors for Israel, particularly since the start of the peace process. "There are lots of people who want to invest in Israel," he says.

A Robinson Club resort here would probably incorporate many elements of kibbutz life and consist of four- or five-star bungalows with 600 to 800 beds, he says.

Africa Israel plans to participate in tender for Shikun Ufituah

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

BUSINESSMAN Eliezer Fishman, in partnership with Bank Hapoalim, plans to go ahead with plans to participate in the government's tender to purchase Shikun Ufituah, despite Africa Israel's last-minute hesitations.

The Government Companies Authority yesterday gave potential bidders until February 15 to submit bids.

Africa Israel general manager Shlomo Grofman said the company has not yet decided whether to

take part in the tender and if so, at what price. According to media reports, economic investment consultant Dan Thori, hired by Africa Israel, has valued Shikun Ufituah at NIS 800m. Government appraisers have recently valued the company at more than NIS 1 billion.

Besides Africa Israel, six other groups plan to take part in the tender, including Azorim, the

Renaissance Fund and Israel Corp. group, Ted Arson in partnership with Property and Buildings and Fibi, Yisras, Engel and Aiz Lavud. Other participants include a group made up of Gad Zavi, Dori and Mizrahi Investments, and a consortium headed by Aslad.

In other news, David Friedmann was officially appointed chairman of Africa Israel at the company's board of director's meeting yesterday.

Labor court fails to halt sale of ICL

AMIR ROZENBLIT

A REQUEST by the Histadrut and the roof organization of the Israel Chemicals unions for a restraining order forbidding the sale of a controlling interest in the firm to industrialist Shaul Eisenberg was rejected by the Beersheba Labor Court yesterday.

The appellants argued that the sale would severely damage the interests of the workers and that ICL's management and the Government Companies Authority had violated their commitment to negotiate with the workers before authorizing the sale.

Several ICL managers, as well as those of many of its daughter companies, and authority head Yossi Nitzani testified at the hearing before Labor Court President Baruch Azulai.

Azulai said the "golden shares" in ICL which the government will retain would suffice to protect the workers after the company's privatization.

"There is a basis to the contention that the agreement of sale contains no real apparatus to protect the workers' rights or the interests of the government or of the workers in regard to ensuring places of employment or job security, and that there is no apparatus in the agreement that allows the state to influence the buyer in regard to workers' rights," Azulai said.

Nonetheless, he said, the failures of ICL and the authority in this regard had not reached the point of injustice nor violated a contract.

Thus, he denied the request for an injunction.

Court postpones decision on sale of Ram Industries

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE Tel Aviv District Court yesterday decided to postpone the decision regarding the sale of Ram Industries, claiming the potential buyers' highest bid is significantly lower than estimates of the company's worth.

Tel Aviv District Court Judge Yeshia Levit said it is necessary to enable all of Ram Industries' special managers to negotiate with bidders. The company went into receivership in 1992.

Yehuda Industries, which submitted the highest bid, proposes purchasing the company's assets and its business for \$36 million. This does not include the company's stocks, valued at NIS 5m. Company appraisers have valued Ram Industries at \$45m.

The Rubi Asa group has asked to purchase Ram Industries for \$54m. In the framework of a creditors agreement, based on repayment of the company's debts to creditors. The group has also submitted a bid to purchase the company's assets for \$48m, on the assumption that the court may reject the creditors agreement. The bid does not include a bank guarantee. Levit instructed the

Rubi Asa group to deposit a \$5 million bank guarantee in 12 days.

The Rubi Asa consortium is made up of Asa - Ram Industries' former owner - Italian steel magnate Andrea Pinini, Swiss investment company Intradev, and Prof. Nissim Aranya.

At the court hearing, the secured creditors appealed to the judge to speed up the sale, saying that they have sale rights on the company's mortgaged assets, and have already waited long enough to exercise them.

In contrast, Ram Industries' unsecured creditors favor postponing the company's sale until they are able to receive a higher price for the company's assets. According to the secured creditors, the higher the price, the larger their chance of receiving a dividend from the receivership.

Ram's secured creditors include Maritime Bank, Industrial Development Bank and PKO, a Polish bank. The amount owed to the secured creditors is estimated at between \$15m and \$17m, while the unsecured creditors are owed some \$100m.

Beersheba privatizes 49% of city transport company

AMIR ROZENBLIT

THE Beersheba Municipality's transport system has decided to privatize 49 percent of the company, to be sold to business interests or to other concerns on a partnership basis.

The decision was made at a meeting of the company's board of directors after the move was recommended by its chairman, Mayor Yitzhak Rager.

Rager argued that doing so would guarantee continued municipality control of the company. The company's workers will be given the first option of buying into the company.

Company general manager, Efraim Weizman confirmed the decision, and said its management was charged with putting together the privatization plans.

The Beersheba Municipal Transport Company is one of two in the country which function as municipality-owned firms; the other is in Upper Nazareth. The firm ran into financial trouble,

but in recent years managed to show a profit. Some 300 workers are employed by the company.

Company executives said the privatization idea had been floated for the past three years.

However, lawyer Yehuda Videvsky and Yossi Banano, two board members who did not attend the meeting where the privatization decision was made, were angry about it. "We're talking about a profitable company, whose sale is aimed at covering the municipality's huge debt. It's very sad that because of the mayor's financial irresponsibility, a decision is made to privatize a successful company. There is no real justification for selling the company," Videvsky said.

"This is a sham. Because just as in every privatization, the matter will lead to firings, without cause. If the mayor wants to sell the transport [firm] so the municipality will have money, let him sell his house," said Banano.

LanOptics announces rise in fourth quarter net profits

RACHEL NEIMAN

LANOPTICS announced a rise in fourth quarter net profits to \$886,715 from \$591,578 during the same period in 1993.

Fourth quarter revenues went up 20 percent to \$5.6m.

The company's shares on the NASDAQ market in New York went up 8.5 percent to 7.5.

Annual net profits fell to \$3m. from \$4.2m., while revenues were up 39% to \$20.4m. from 14.7m.

Quarterly profits rose to 56%, from 54%. Profit margins for 1994 were 56%, up from 46%.

LanOptics continued penetration of the European market during 1994 and increased sales of its US and UK subsidiaries.

The company said it was well positioned to meet the needs of the Token Ring market through its 1993 acquisition of Texas-based TIEC Computer Communications Products.

Ministry of Industry and Trade

Tender No. 5/95
Laboratory Equipment

The National Physical Laboratory of Israel, Ministry of Industry and Trade, invites bids for the supply of the following equipment:

- Master Ceramic Angle, size 600 x 450 x 75 mm., with an uncertainty of $\pm 1 \mu$.
- Angle and Form Testing Instrument, range 0 - 600 mm., straightness $\pm 1 \mu$, squareness $\pm 2 \mu$.
- Capacitance manometer, range from 1 x 10⁻⁴ - 1,000 Torr, uncertainty $\pm 0.1\%$.
- Digital Multimeter, 8.5 digits, stability ± 1 ppm in 24 hours, voltage range 100 nV - 1,000 V.
- Balance, up to 200 g., readability accuracy ± 10 microgram for all ranges.
- Time interval counter, time resolution of better than 10 nsec, frequency up to 100 MHz, complying with IEEE 488.
- DC voltage reference, stability better than 0.2 ppm/deg. C.

For additional information, please call the National Physical Laboratory, Tel. 02-664976, Dr. Paperno, or Fax. 02-520797.

Bids should be submitted in a sealed envelope, marked with the bid number.

The envelope should be inserted into the bids box at our main office, Room 22, 30 Agon St., Jerusalem, by February 28, 1995.

NOTE: The right is reserved to negotiate with bidders. No undertaking is given to accept the lowest or any bid; the right is reserved to accept part of a bid.

Bidders should include an offer for maintenance and repair.

Bids may be submitted for one or more items.

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Supervisor of Monopolies Yoram Turbowicz has approved Aladdin Knowledge Systems purchase of Elisham software protection for \$1.44 million. Aladdin's US subsidiary has withdrawn its bid for the software protection division of Utah-based Micro Security Systems.

The Tel Aviv Stock Exchange has issued its list of most heavily traded securities in 1994. Koor, Teva, and Isramco topped the list, with an annual turnover of more than NIS 2b. apiece. Bezek, IDI Holdings, Discount Investments, ICL, Ebit, and Lemni formed the second tier, with a turnover of between NIS 1b. and NIS 1.5b. The TASE top 20 made up 50.7% of all trading in 1994.

Magal Security Systems has announced a \$587,000, or \$0.12 per share net profit, for the fourth quarter, compared with \$185,000 or \$0.04 in 1993. Quarterly revenues were \$5 million, compared with \$2.9m. in 1993, and quarterly profit margins were 45%, up from 43% in 1993. Annual net profits were \$1.7m., compared with \$633,000 and \$10.7m. the previous year.

US publishing giant Harper Collins will distribute a multimedia product for deaf-mutes developed by Edusoft. The Israeli company estimates sales of the product will comprise 15 percent of its sales over the next three to five years.

Elbit Vision Systems has moved into new quarters at the Yokne'am industrial park. EVS produces inspection systems using artificial vision. Sales in 1994 of \$9m. were primarily to the textile sector but the company said it expects a rise in sales to \$15m. this year as it enters new markets.

Housing prices expected to rise 10% by end of summer

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

HOUSING prices are expected to increase between five percent and 10% by the end of the summer, Haim Kaufman, chairman of Maldan, the association of real estate agents, told a press conference yesterday.

Based on past experience, Kaufman said, housing prices increase toward the end of the school year.

He said many potential home buyers are currently waiting in hope that the government will be able to push prices down in an effort to reduce the consumer price index.

In the last few months, Kaufman said apartment prices have dropped about 5% in Petah Tikva and Rishon LeZion, and up to 20% in Ashdod.

"I have no doubt that at current market prices, it is worth-

while to buy a home. I expect apartment prices in Petah Tikva to start going up in the near future," he said. "In areas of heavy demand, like Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, and Haifa, there is no land available for sale, thus the government has very little influence on prices. But in places like Ashdod and Eilat, where the government has relatively large land reserves, it will be able to influence prices."

He said the price of buying or renting a two-room apartment in Tel Aviv has increased sharply over the last few months, mainly because of the shortage in apartments of this size.

"Apartment owners are asking for \$650 a month for a two-room apartment in a good area of Tel Aviv, compared with \$500-\$550 several months ago," he said.

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Petah (foreign currency deposit rates) (7.2.95)			
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	5.500	5.575	5.600
Pound sterling (£100,000)	4.600	4.600	4.600
German mark (DM 200,000)	4.000	4.000	4.000
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	2.875	3.125	3.375
Yen (¥10 million yen)	0.005	0.005	0.005
(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)			
Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (8.2.95)			
Currency basket	Buy	Sell	Rep.
U.S. dollar	3.350	3.400	3.381
German mark	3.000	3.043	3.021
Pound sterling	1.650	1.691	1.670
French franc	4.600	4.757	4.678
Japanese yen (100)	0.565	0.574	0.569
Dutch florin	3.013	3.070	3.042
Swiss franc	1.973	2.021	1.997
Swedish krona	2.317	2.350	2.333
Norwegian krona	0.409	0.420	0.410
Denmark krona	0.475	0.483	0.479
Finnish mark	0.482	0.502	0.492
Canadian dollar	0.633	0.642	0.637
Australian dollar	2.148	2.170	2.159
S. African rand	2.258	2.297	2.277
Belgian franc (10)	0.582	0.592	0.587
Austrian schilling (10)	2.750	2.812	2.781
Italian lire (1000)	1.957	1.983	1.970
Jordanian dinar	1.52	1.55	1.535
Syrian pound	1.52	1.55	1.535
EU	3.894	3.748	3.821
Irish punt	4.820	4.940	4.880
Spanish peseta (100)	2.270	2.301	2.285
* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.			

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

ANDRÉ LUMBROSO



marked by small rises or declines. Should this occur, the present price level seems to be a fairly acceptable level.

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

WALL STREET REPORT

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES

	MARK	STERLING	YEN	SFr	FFr
MARK	—	0.4203/07	84.82/85	0.8481/84	3.4581/88
STERLING	2.3778/88	—	153.68/77	2.0116/68	8.2158/50
YEN	1.5487/80	0.6502/10	—	1.3088/80	5.3485/87
SFr	118.13/21	0.4868/71	75.35/4N	—	4.0827/82
FFr	0.2852/84	0.1216/17	18.67/7N	0.2447/49	—

Prices from 23-00 local time

Commonstock Trading Ltd. (Data 3-FEB-85)

	Last	Change
Gold AM fix	374.8	-0.4
Gold PM fix	374.6	+0.1
Silver fix	465.7	-3.3
Platinum PM fix	409	-0.25

Months in parentheses signals contract exp. date

[illegible][illegible]

House speaker balks at intervention in baseball strike

WASHINGTON (AP) — The head of the US House of Representatives said yesterday he was willing to meet with a federal mediator to discuss the protracted baseball strike, but thought congressional intervention was "a very bad idea."

Telling reporters that he and Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole were prepared to discuss the situation with mediator W.J. Usery, Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich also reiterated that he thought Congress should be focusing on other issues.

"The fact is, if you start settling (labor disputes) industry by industry, how many should we solve?" he said. "I just think it's a very bad idea to politicize it."

Gingrich said he did not think that Congress had "the wisdom to intervene in a single industry that has nothing to do with national safety."

"We are not in a position today to rush into any decision. I am not closing the door. ... I

just do not think that Congress should rush into it," he said.

Sen. Nancy Kassebaum, who heads the Labor and Human Resources Committee, also scoffed at the idea.

"I believe it is a bad idea for Congress to step into the middle of the dispute between the baseball owners and players," the Kansas Republican said.

Gingrich's comments came the day after US President Bill Clinton gave up his efforts to find a solution to the six-month MLB players strike.

However, Labor Secretary Robert Reich said that "if the president is going to have the authority to lock heads and force arbitration, Congress has got to give it to him."

Yesterday's comments came a day after both the players union representatives and the club owners left the capital following the latest failed negotiations.

Usery had submitted his recommendations

for ending the strike on Tuesday. Owners were willing to accept them, the players were not.

The main points of Usery's proposal had a luxury tax for players salaries for clubs that spend over \$40 million; reduce free agency eligibility from six to four years and the eliminate salary arbitration.

The luxury tax would penalize teams that spend over \$40 million on players' salaries at 25 percent, meaning the amount the club spent over \$40 million would be taxed at 25 percent. The average club salary last year was just over \$40 million.

Free agency allows players to sign with any club after four years of service in the majors, without any compensation to the losing club. Arbitration is a system whereby if a player is not eligible for free agency, and he and his club cannot agree to a salary, both the player and club submit a salary figure and an arbitrator picks one or the other.

Peres the peacemaker steps up to the plate

HILLEL KUTTNER

WASHINGTON

"I don't think that's the answer. First of all, neither of us have been very successful. I think the only way you can end up with an agreement is to continue talking," Belanger told *The Jerusalem Post* Tuesday.

Milwaukee Brewers owner Bud Selig, the acting baseball commissioner and management's spokesman during the strike, also didn't think much of the idea, especially since US President Bill Clinton himself couldn't break the stalemate after summoning both parties to the White House earlier that night.

"Frankly, we had a mediator who's the most powerful mediator in the country, and he wasn't successful," said Selig, who noted that his wife is now visiting Israel.

Selig, ever so solemnly, said "no, there really aren't" any lessons to be learned from conducting secret negotiations, a la the Oslo channel.

But Peres chuckled when offered a hypothetical opportunity to settle the impasse. "I don't understand this game at all," he said, adding that many years ago he had actually attended a ballgame in the US.

And what would this Nobel Peace Prize-winning statesman suggest for bringing peace to the warring sides? Said Peres: "They should enter an interim agreement."

Mullen reaches 1,000 points as Pens beat Panthers

PITTSBURGH — Joe Mullen had two goals and two assists and became the first American-born player to record 1,000 career points as the undefeated Pittsburgh Penguins beat the Florida Panthers 7-3 on Tuesday.

Mullen, 37, entered the game with 998 career points and assisted on a first-period goal by Tomas Sandstrom and a second-period goal by John Cullen to become the 42nd NHL player to reach the 1,000-point plateau.

Mullen scored the 477th and 478th goals of his career later in the second period.

"I'm just glad it's over with and I can go out and play hockey," said Mullen. "Since the beginning of the season, I've been playing with a lot of pressure. This is a great thing for all American players. I'm sure that it will be surpassed sometime soon."

Despite playing without star left wings Luc Robitaille and Kevin Stevens, the Penguins remained the only unbeaten team in the NHL (8-0-1).

Robitaille was suspended indefinitely by the NHL for a high-sticking incident Sunday at New Jersey. Stevens is sidelined indefinitely with a hairline wrist fracture.

Sandstrom and Cullen each had a goal and two assists for the Penguins, which scored five goals in the second period.

Brent Hughes and Cam Neely scored two goals each as the host Bruins continued their offensive surge and overwhelmed Montreal. Boston, which scored nine goals in its first five games, has 18 in its last three, all victories. It has outshot all eight opponents and held a 42-28 advantage over the Canadiens.



GIVEN THE SLIP — Boston Bruins right wing Steve Heinze gets tripped up by Montreal goaltender Patrick Roy Tuesday. (AP)

Sabres 2, Capitals 1
Dominik Hasek stopped 37 shots and the host Sabres took advantage of two goals in the first period.

Both teams were flat for much of the last two periods. Buffalo stayed back on defense and relied on first-period goals by Alexander Moggiy and Dale Hawerchuk while Washington had few good chances to score.

Peter Bondra scored a first-period goal for the Capitals. (Reader, AP)

TUESDAY'S RESULTS:
Buffalo 2, Washington 1
Tampa Bay 5, N.Y. Islanders 2
Detroit 6, San Jose 0
Los Angeles 5, St. Louis 5
Edmonton 4, Vancouver 4
Chicago 3, Anaheim 0

Maccabi favored against Ljubljana

JOEL GORDIN

AFTER last week's fine victory over Italy's Scavolini Pesaro, Maccabi Tel Aviv basketball team is expecting a reasonably easy road win tonight over the Slovenian champions, Olimpija Ljubljana. The game is part of the 12th round (out of 14) of the European Club Championships' final pool.

Four teams from the group will advance to the next round and it would seem, at this stage, that Maccabi's prospects will hinge on beating CSKA in Moscow next week, although the importance of this game will greatly depend on how CSKA fares against Pesaro (that game was scheduled for late last night).

In any event, a big road win over Ljubljana won't do any harm to the team's self-confidence for next week's Moscow appearance. The prospects are good. In the first matchup between Maccabi and Ljubljana

in December, Maccabi won 79-61, after recovering from an appalling first half, one of the club's worst displays at Yad Eliyahu.

It would not be an exaggeration to state that if Maccabi could win after such a first half, the Israelis can win any contest with Ljubljana, which has a 3-8 record in the pool.

The home squad is based upon two excellent sharpshooters, playmaker Dusan Hauptman and Roman Horvat and a fair foreign player, Russian national center Vitaly Nosov.

However, none of these can match their opposite numbers in Maccabi's opening five. The Slovenians have no "sixth man" to stand up to Moti Daniel, red hot in his present form, and, in general, the Slovenians' bench is short.

Nevertheless, the Ljubljana squad has a proven fighting spirit and, with the help of a partisan home crowd, could exploit any Maccabi cockiness.

Maccabi's visit to the Slovenian capital should have special meaning for Maccabi center Radisav Curcic — he played played for Ljubljana for nearly five years, only three years ago. His wife comes from the town.

However, the stony-faced giant commented laconically yesterday: "We'll come, we'll win and we'll return home. That's all." Maccabi was surely happy to hear that both CSKA's Americans, Chuck Evans and Patrick Eddie, have reportedly both been sent home from Moscow, thereby weakening the squad. They "did not fit in with the team," according to the CSKA manager.

The team scheduled practices for yesterday but its main attention, players admitted, would be the broadcast of the CSKA-Pesaro game.

Tonight's game will be shown live on ITV starting at 8:30.

European Club Championships

Group A	W	L	Pts.
1. Penarhin	8	4	20
2. Scavolini Pesaro	8	4	19
3. Real Madrid	7	5	18
4. Maccabi Tel Aviv	6	6	17
5. CSKA Moscow	5	7	17
6. FAK Zagreb	5	7	17
7. Olimpia Lyubjan	2	9	14
8. Benetton Lione	2	9	13

Group B	W	L	Pts.
1. Olympique	7	5	19
2. Euro Pinar	7	5	18
3. Barcelona	7	4	18
4. Limoges	7	4	18
5. CSKA Moscow	6	6	17
6. Cibora Zagreb	6	6	16
7. Bayer Leverkusen	4	7	15
8. Juventud Badajoz	0	11	11

Spurs beat Sonics on Rodman's rebounds

NEW YORK (AP) — The fans notice his hair — it's purple this week — his tattoos and his earrings. Management pays more attention to his attendance record.

His fellow players, however, know the true value of Dennis Rodman.

"He gets 11 offensive rebounds, they get five as a team," San Antonio coach Bob Hill said. "That tells you what kind of a rebounder Dennis Rodman is."

Awesome might be the best word. The 6-foot-8 Rodman grabbed a season-high 27 rebounds — 11 at his own end of the court — as the Spurs defeated the Seattle SuperSonics 106-103 Tuesday night.

"When his mind is in the game

like tonight, he's an awesome player who provides us a great spark," Spurs center David Robinson said.

Robinson wasn't too shabby himself, scoring 31 points in the Spurs' eighth straight win.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Orlando	26	10	.726	
New York	26	10	.726	
Boston	18	18	.500	6.5
New Jersey	18	20	.474	7.5
Atlanta	16	22	.421	9.5
Philadelphia	14	24	.366	11.5
Washington	11	27	.289	14.5

Central Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Charlotte	26	10	.726	
Cleveland	26	10	.726	
Indiana	23	18	.563	1.5
Chicago	22	18	.550	2
Albany	22	22	.500	6.5
Portland	22	22	.500	6.5
San Antonio	18	22	.450	10
Detroit	17	25	.404	12

Bucks 95, Knicks 87
Eric Murdock scored 22 points and Vin Baker had 22 points and 13 rebounds for the Bucks, who beat the Knicks for the first time in eight games.

Patrick Ewing led New York, which dropped its second straight, with 23 points and 17 rebounds. John Starks also had 23, including five 3-pointers in the first quarter.

Suns 114, Mavericks 113
Elliott Perry scored seven points in the final 1:36, including the go-ahead basket with 13.3 seconds to play as visiting Phoenix edged Dallas.

TUESDAY'S RESULTS:
Milwaukee 95, New York 87
Cleveland 90, Philadelphia 84
Indiana 95, Charlotte 92, OT
Detroit 119, Washington 115
Minnesota 149, Golden State 100
Phoenix 114, Dallas 113
L.A. Lakers 85, Denver 83
San Antonio 106, Seattle 103
Utah 101, L.A. Clippers 88

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Utah	25	12	.745	
San Antonio	20	17	.588	5.5
Houston	20	17	.588	5.5
Denver	20	20	.500	8
San Jose	18	22	.450	10
Minnesota	11	25	.300	23.5

Pacific Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Phoenix	27	10	.757	
Seattle	32	12	.727	3.5
L.A. Lakers	28	18	.609	7.5
Sacramento	25	19	.568	10.5
Portland	24	20	.545	11.5
Golden State	13	31	.293	22.5
L.A. Clippers	7	40	.146	38

Milan wins Super Cup

MILAN (Reuters) — AC Milan put their off-pitch problems behind them yesterday as the team beat Arsenal 2-0 to win the European Super Cup for the third time.

The first leg at Highbury had ended in a goalless draw. Croatian midfielder Zvonimir Boban and veteran Italian striker Daniele Massaro claimed well-taken goals in each half as Milan triumphed in the first match in Italy since the fatal stabbing of a fan before a Serie A game on January 29.

Genoa fan Vincenzo Spagnolo died of knife wounds sustained in clashes before his team's match with Milan last month. Simone Barbaglia, an 18-year-old Milan supporter, has been charged with murder over the killing.

The Milan fans in a disappointing crowd of under 24,000 at the San Siro remained silent throughout the first half yesterday as a mark of respect for Spagnolo.

Premier League Arsenal enjoyed the backing of some 3,000 supporters but there were no reports of any trouble before or during the game.

Southampton 6, Luton 0
England forward Matthew Le Tissier scored twice as Premier League Southampton swaggered into the fifth round of the FA Cup by crushing first division Luton yesterday.

Le Tissier, regarded by many as the most skillful and creative player in England, opened the scoring after six minutes and added his second from the penalty spot half an hour later in their fourth round replay.

By then Southampton was already two ahead. Jim Magilton having scored after 32 minutes, and Luton, semifinalist last season, was unable to respond.

Southampton secured a trip to the Premier League's in-form team Tottenham in the fifth round.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Cantona no-show at inquiry

French striker Eric Cantona was accused of "a blatant disregard" for an important inquiry when he failed to appear yesterday for an interview with police over a two-footed attack on a fan.

But Cantona's solicitor Maurice Watkins claimed that police had been fully aware that Cantona was on holiday in Antigua and no appointment had been arranged.

French try to curb sports violence

The French sports minister yesterday urged swift, tough moves to curb sports-related violence after the shooting death of a fan prompted cancellation of 6,800 pro and amateur matches in the Paris area this weekend.

Soccer authorities also ordered a minute of silence at the start of all other matches in France.

The death Tuesday of 22-year-old Douadi Atout — shot in a low-income Paris suburb last weekend by a fan of a rival amateur team — followed the January 29 stabbing death of an Italian fan.

Maradona says he'll play again

Diego Maradona said he intended returning to soccer as a player once he had served his 15-month suspension for failing a drugs test at last year's World Cup finals.

Maradona, currently coach to Racing Club, told television reporters his comeback ambitions were driven by a desire to prove himself to "all the bastards" who were against him.

Davis Cup details

Details of the forthcoming Davis Cup Euro/African Group tie between Israel and Norway to be played in Oslo from 31 March-April 2, 1995, were released yesterday.

The singles matches on Friday, March 31, will begin at 3 pm with the doubles rubber at 1 pm on Saturday.

Sunday's reverse singles will start at 12 noon.

The draw will take place on March 30 at 3 pm. The teams will be announced approximately 10 days before the tie.

Israel Tennis Association Managing Director Yair Engel said yesterday that he had asked the Israeli Embassy in Norway to inform the Norwegian Jewish community of the tie and to request their support for the visitors.

Reports: Strawberry used cocaine

Darryl Strawberry tested positive for cocaine on consecutive days last month, according to documents obtained Tuesday by The Associated Press.

Strawberry was suspended by major league baseball on Monday for 60 days for violating the game's drug policy and terms of his aftercare program. The San Francisco Giants immediately released him.

NBA views video of Maxwell's 'attack'

PORTLAND (AP) — With the help of a videotape, the NBA was to determine yesterday what action to take against Houston guard Vernon Maxwell for allegedly assaulting a heckling fan.

People who have seen the video, which was shipped to NBA headquarters in New York on Tuesday and has not yet been broadcast, say it clearly shows Maxwell connecting a right-handed punch to the jaw of 35-year-old Steve George.

Maxwell ran a dozen rows into the stands to get at George during the third quarter of Houston's 120-82 loss to Portland.

In some European media, the incident is being compared to Manchester United striker Eric Cantona's two-footed assault on a heckler two weeks ago in an English league game.

After being expelled from a game at Crystal Palace's Selhurst Park, the French forward ran to the stands, leapt the barrier and delivered a two-footed kick on a fan heckling him from the front row.

Rod Thorn, the NBA's vice president of operations and the man who decides on penalties for rule infractions, said the case is unprecedented in his 10 years in the league.

Maxwell, who has earned the nickname "Mad Max" for his unpredictable, outlandish behavior in seven years in the NBA, quietly slipped out of Portland with his teammates Tuesday.

"You know I'm not going to talk about it," Maxwell said.

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HEALTH

Kidnapper's accomplice still at large

THE female accomplice in Tuesday's kidnapping of diamond heiress Keren Gertler and her father, Asher, is still at large.

The other kidnapper, Avi Sapan, killed by police during a shootout, had rented a one-story house in Hod Hasharon two months ago to use in the abduction, police said yesterday.

Police, aided by Keren Gertler, located the house Tuesday night where the female kidnapper had held her. Keren, who had been drugged, was released unharmed by the woman Tuesday afternoon.

Keren said she had been blindfolded most of the time, but on

occasions she had managed to get a glimpse of the woman abductor. She helped police compile an identikit picture yesterday of the woman, whose identity is known.

Initially police suspected that Sapan's girlfriend was the accomplice, but after several hours of questioning Tuesday night, she was released.

In another development yesterday, Police Minister Moshe Shahal blasted the behavior of some press photographers who arrived at the Gertler family home during the ordeal. The photographers were noticed by Sapan, riding in Asher Gertler's car, and he accused the family of

RAINE MARCUS

alerting police.

"These photographers endangered the victims' lives," said Shahal.

He suggested that police and reporters create a secret code to be used in incidents where lives are at risk so as not to disrupt police operations. He also said he intends to hold a meeting with newspaper editors and Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz to determine guidelines to be used in the future.

After he was notified of the photographers' presence, Tel Aviv police chief Cmdr. Gabi

Last personally phoned all newspaper editors to ask them to instruct photographers to leave the house.

Senior officers met yesterday to draw conclusions from the kidnapping, which thanks to the police action and the cool behavior of Asher and Keren Gertler, ended quickly.

Yesterday, Asher Gertler visited the hospital bed of Chief Inspector Yossi Skappa, who was shot in the shoulder by Sapan, after the dramatic chase in Ramat Aviv.

"This man almost gave his life for my daughter," Gertler later told Channel 1's *Erev Hadash*.

Gertler described how he "somehow found the strength" during a split second to butt Sapan in the head, before escaping out the car door. During the tussle Sapan shot Gertler in the knee, lightly wounding him.

"Sapan forced me into the back seat of the car and asked me for my hands. He took out a plastic fastener and threatened to blow my brains out after a count of three if I did not give him my hands," said Gertler.

Gertler took advantage of a moment when Sapan was manipulating the plastic handcuffs to make his getaway.



At yesterday's official opening are (from right) Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni, Transport Minister Yisrael Kassar, Transport Ministry Director-General Doron Shorer, Postal Authority Director-General Ran Levine, and Postal Authority Council head Amos Mar-Haim. (Israel Sun)

Inspection stations to transfer vehicle ownership

JUDY SIEGEL

THE Communications and Transport ministries and the Postal Authority have gotten together to allow the immediate transfer of vehicle ownership at an inspection station in Jerusalem. Five more stations are to open soon.

Instead of getting the car tested, then going to the nearest licensing bureau to check ownership and carry out the deal, buyer and seller can do both at the Test-Line inspection station in Givat

Shaul.

The postal agency that opened a few weeks ago at Test-Line has an on-line computer link with Jerusalem's licensing bureau. The would-be purchaser is informed whether there are any limitations on the car, such as a lien or confiscation order; if there are no problems, the change in ownership is registered directly in the licensing bureau's computer.

There is no extra charge for the service, which may be carried out between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. five days a week, and until 1 p.m. on Fridays.

Transport Minister Yisrael Kassar said at yesterday's opening ceremony that the ministry is ready to allow all inspection stations around the country to go on-line with licensing bureaus.

In the coming weeks, postal agencies will open inside five other stations: Dynamometer in Jerusalem, two in Tel Aviv, Testcar in Haifa, and one in Beersheba. Aside from carrying out vehicle transfers, the postal agencies also function like any post office branch.

Fifty-seven regular post office branches around the country also provide on-line vehicle ownership transfers - and 235 others are to join them in two years.

NEWS IN BRIEF

TAAS official held for bribe-taking

The officer in charge of transporting workers at TAAS-Israel Industries was detained yesterday by police for allegedly taking bribes from a private transport company he hired.

The transport company owner was also detained by fraud squad detectives. The two, in their mid-40s, are to be remanded today in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court.

Bill to require warning on alcoholic drinks

Likud MK Ron Nahman has submitted a bill to require all alcoholic beverages to bear a warning to pregnant women that drinking could harm the health of their babies. However, the Health Ministry does not think it necessary, ministry spokeswoman Yifat Ben-Hai said.

"Drinking large quantities of alcohol is harmful to health, including that of pregnant women. But at the same time, this fact is brought to the public in various ways, and pregnant women get guidelines from their doctor and *tipat halav* (family health) centers," Ben-Hai said.

Israeli is Pittsburgh's Man of the Year

Gideon Teplitz has been named as Pittsburgh's Man of the Year in the field of arts and culture. Teplitz, general manager of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, was cited for promoting the orchestra's musical message to the community and abroad. Teplitz is the son of flautist Uri Teplitz, a founding member of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, which opened its current US tour with a concert last night at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC conducted by Zubin Mehta.

Single winner takes Lotto jackpot

This week's NIS 6 million Lotto jackpot was claimed by one person, but so far the winner has not claimed the prize. Lotto officials said yesterday. The second prize is being split among 10 winners, with each collecting NIS 15,449.

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the eight of spades, ace of hearts, 10 of diamonds, and king of clubs.



Prof. Yehuda Amir and Rina Shapiro have been awarded the Israel Prizes in social psychology and education. (IPPA)



Official denies asking 'Who needs immigrants?'

DAVID RUDGE

A SENIOR official of the Ministry of Science and Arts allegedly cast aspersions on immigration when asked to help a symphony orchestra comprising new immigrants in Upper Nazareth.

In a letter of complaint to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Mayor Menahem Ariav accused the official of using derogatory language.

He charged that Yossi Prost, head of the ministry's art and culture department, had responded to the request by saying: "Why is a symphony orchestra needed in

Upper Nazareth, and who needs new immigrants?"

Deputy Mayor Edna Rodreeg had asked for help running the orchestra so the city could continue to absorb new immigrants.

Ariav wrote an irate letter to Rabin, with a copy to Minister Shulamit Aloni, on hearing of the incident, charging the ministry is a misnomer if its officials act and speak in such a way.

He noted in the letter that Up-

per Nazareth had absorbed more than 16,000 new immigrants in the past few years, who had helped boost the population by nearly 70 percent, without the help of the culture ministry.

In reaction to the mayor's move, Prost said in a statement he denies the remarks and is considering filing a libel suit in the matter.

Prost said the city of Upper Nazareth is apparently using the alleged remarks as a way to elicit funds from the ministry.

Histadrut threatens to sue government over organization tax

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

THE Histadrut said yesterday it would petition the High Court of Justice if the government issues extension orders for the cost-of-living increase, but refuses to do the same for the organization tax.

Without extension orders, almost half a million workers will not receive the COL increment agreed on by the Histadrut and public employers.

Histadrut Chairman Haim Ramon and trade union section chairman Amir Peretz said yesterday they would not allow a situation in which hundreds of thousands of workers enjoy benefits achieved by the Histadrut, due to government-issued extension orders, without having to pay the fees for these services.

Ramon and Peretz explained that the framework agreements signed between the Histadrut and the public employers include both the COL increment and the organization fees.

If the government refuses to extend the organization fees to other sectors, then the Histadrut would ask the High Court to forbid issuing extension orders for the COL

increment as well. "You can't have only the benefits and privileges without any of the obligations. The government cannot bestow the Histadrut's achievements on non-Histadrut members, while exempting them of the fees which enabled these benefits," Peretz said.

Earlier this week, Labor and Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir refused to issue extension orders for the organization tax after consulting with Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair, who said it would not stand the test of the High Court. Ben-Yair noted that it has nothing to do with extending the COL increment.

In another move, the High Court issued an interim order forbidding the Histadrut to collect organization fees from non-Histadrut members in the public sector. This was at the request of Histadrut Ha'ovdim Halemmit, which wants the 0.9% organization tax from its members for itself.

Peretz said that next week the Histadrut is to resume negotiations with the employers on a new COL agreement.

Ramon: Histadrut supports national pension legislation

HISTADRUT Chairman Haim Ramon said yesterday he doubts the Rabin government would legislate a national pension law before the end of its term.

Ramon, speaking to a conference of insurance agents in Jerusalem, said the Histadrut would support such a pension bill when it is submitted to the Knesset. He noted the bill is complicated and

its final form has not yet been determined.

Ramon said the Histadrut had previously opposed a national pension scheme, because it would have eliminated the Histadrut's monopoly over the pension funds.

But now, Ramon said, these considerations no longer exist. (Tum)

Dinitz admits he gave false testimony to police

EVELYN GORDON

THOUGH former Jewish Agency chairman Simcha Dinitz told police his previous employer had also paid his Symys credit card bills, he did not even own a Symys credit card at that time, Dinitz testified yesterday.

Dinitz is on trial in the Jerusalem District Court for fraud and breach of trust, for allegedly deliberately charging some \$22,000 worth of credit card purchases to the agency's New York delegation. On Sunday, he took the stand as the first witness in his defense.

Dinitz had originally told police he used the same system with his previous employer, American Friends of the Hebrew University, as he did with the agency. They paid his Symys bills and then deducted the money from his salary.

A few months ago, however, when the prosecution brought a witness to challenge this assertion, defense attorney Uri Wagman admitted that Dinitz's statement had been false. Yesterday, therefore, Wagman had Dinitz expand on the theme to explain how he had made such a mistake.

Dinitz said that not only was he wrong that the Friends had paid his Symys bills, but he did not even own a Symys credit card during that period.

"When I did a further check, it turned out that some of the details I gave the police were completely wrong," he admitted.

How, demanded Judge Shalom Brenner, did he make such a fundamental mistake in his police testimony?

"I treated deductions made [to my account] for other things as if they had been made for Symys as well," Dinitz responded.

Dinitz said he obtained the Symys card at about the same time he started work at the agency. However, the card was not necessary to shop at Symys; he had bought items there several times previously, using a personal check written on his American bank account. This account had

money in it from two sources: his regular appearance on a TV program, and speakers' fees from various engagements.

Brenner also questioned Dinitz sharply about his claim the agency knew his Symys purchases were personal, and that he had therefore assumed it was debiting his account accordingly.

Dinitz explained that he met with Moshe Nativ, then head of the agency's New York delegation, in January 1988 - shortly after beginning his job as chairman - and asked him to have the New York office pay his Symys bills, and then send them on to Jerusalem where his account would be debited. Unlike the agency American Express card - which he used for both job-related and personal expenditures - it was clear from the start that the Symys card was his personally, and that all bills should therefore be charged to his account, Dinitz said.

However, he continued, the first purchase he made with this card, in April 1988, consisted of a suit for his own use and a tuxedo for an agency affair. He therefore told Nativ that the tuxedo should be billed to the agency, while the suit should be billed to him.

After that, he said, he made no other agency purchases with the Symys card.

"But it all began with a purchase which was also two kinds of purchases [personal and job-related] - like the American Express," Brenner objected. "How was the agency to know that the next suit you bought was for personal use?"

"If I need a suit... it's obviously personal," Dinitz replied.

"But the problem here is that Symys also began with an institutional purchase," Brenner insisted. "After that, a flood of private purchases began. How was the [agency] clerk to know that they were private?"



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